MYSTERIOUS GIRLFRIEND X

4

RIICHI UESHIBA

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MYSTERIOUS GIRLFRIEND X
RIICHI UESHIBA
Vol. 4

MYSTERIOUS GIRLFRIEND X

Characters

Mikoto Urabe (17)

A transfer student who joined Tsubaki's class. She can convey her own feelings through her drool, as well as pick up on Tsubaki's feelings through his. She's antisocial and everything she says and does is mysterious, but her ideas about love are very pure. Her hobby is using scissors, which she can use to cut up anything.

Akira Tsubaki (17)

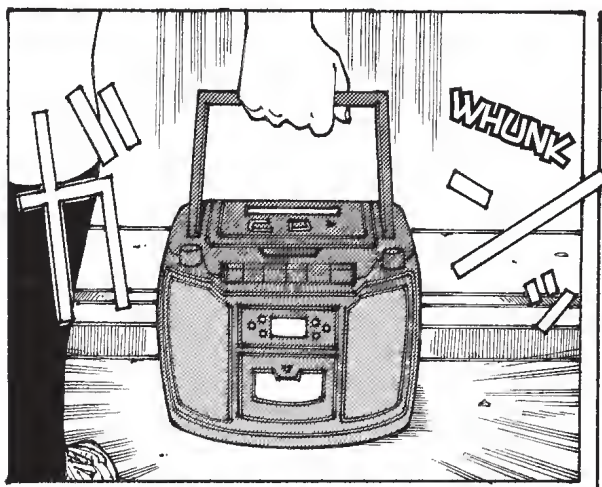
The protagonist of the story. His bizarre relationship with Urabe began after he licked her drool one day. He is as interested in girls as any boy his age, but Urabe takes the lead in their relationship and Tsubaki can't seem to initiate any progress between them.

Momoka Imai (17)

An idol who looks just like Urabe. Longing to live the life of a "normal girl," she approached Urabe with a proposition that they switch places. She tends to overreact to things, and her best skill is her high kick. Her boobs are smaller than Urabe's.

CHAPTER 45: MYSTERIOUS CHOICE

HUH?
GONNA BORROW THIS FOR A BIT.
I'M
SHIMADA ELEC
BASS QUALITY
AUDIO


WHUNK

FONA

MISS!
HEY...
UH,

YOU CAN'T DO THAT!
MISS!
SPOP
TWIST
BLAAA
AARE

TERIA
SUZUKI
FLOWERS
OWWW...
HM?
IN FRONT OF THAT ELEC-TRONICS STORE?
WHY IS THERE A CROWD
MADA ELECTRONICS
P-PHONE
NEW MODELS IN STOCK
SHE DISAPPEARED AFTER KICKING ME...
AND BOTH TIMES,
TODAY AND THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY ...
I GOT KICKED BY URABE TWICE,
RAAAAH
IS THERE AN EVENT GOING ON?
WHISTLE
RAAAAH
WHISTLE
TORA TORA TORA

AH !!
SHIMADA
WHAT ARE YOU DOING,
URABE ?!!
WHA...
MOMOKA, WITH HER CONCERT JUST AHEAD,
GIVES AN ASTONISHING PERFORMANCE!
Panasonic

AND WHY WOULD MOMOKA BE SINGING HERE?!
HER HAIR IS BLACK...
B-BUT ...
IT'S THE REAL HYAKKI!
BOTH HER SINGING AND DANCING ARE PERFECT!!
WOW !!
KLAP
KLAP
KLAP
THAT GIRL IS MY... UHM... MY CLASSMATE ...
SHOVE
Y...
YEAH!! THAT'S NOT MOMOKA IMAI!
THANK YOU!
TV
Ra nic
KLAP
KLAP
KLAP
KLAP
KLAP
JAANG

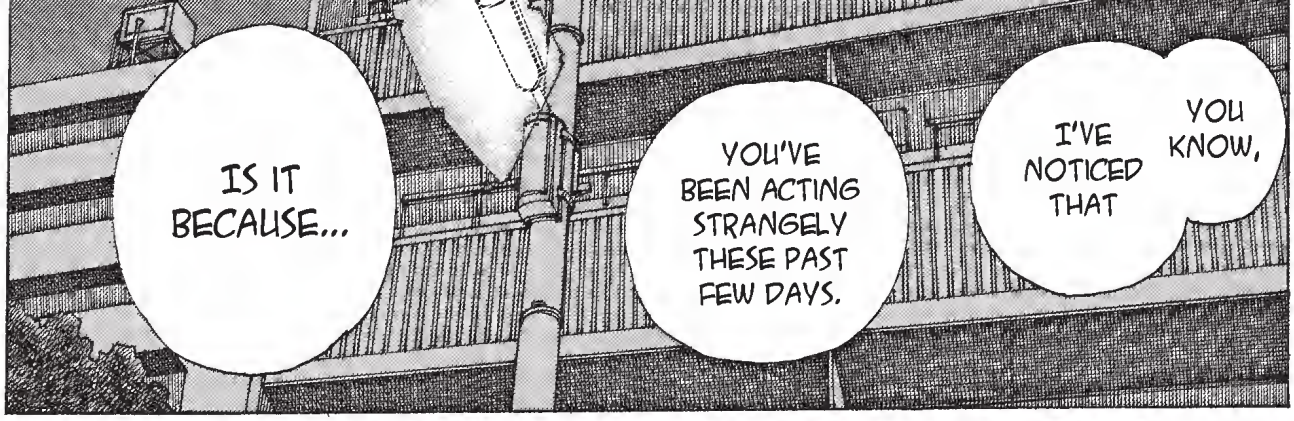
SHIMADA
SING "RAINBOW HOLIDAY!"
HYA-KKI!
ANYONE HAVE A REQUEST ?
OKAY, NEXT !!
"RAINBOW HOLIDAY," YEAH?
BEEP
BUMMM
BUM BUM BUM
RAAAAH
KLAP
KLAP
KLAP
KLAP
DASH
WHISTLE

GRAB
ガッ
URABE ?!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING,
HEY!!
GRAB
ガッ
WE'RE GOING HOME !!
COME ON!
WHPP

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, DRAGGING HYAKKI OFF LIKE THAT?!
THUMBS DOWN
THIS GIRL
IS NOT MOMOKA IMAI!
SHE'S...
WHAM
SWEEP
AUGH !!
THUMBS DOWN

MY
GIRL-
FRIEND
!!!
HEY!
HOLD
IT!
YOU
LITTLE
...
DASH
!!
URABE!
RUN!

HAA
HAA
HAA
YOU'RE A LOT MORE
HAVEN'T WE RUN FAR ENOUGH?!
STOP!
STOP!
HEY...
HEY!
VIOLENT THAN YOU LOOK, AREN'T YOU?
YOU HIT MR. TAKAGI—
UH,
A... A GUY YOU DIDN'T EVEN KNOW...
HAA
AND THEN YOU KICKED A MEMBER OF MY AUDIENCE ...
HAA
WHA ...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOUR AUDIENCE?
WHY WERE YOU IMPER-SONATING MOMOKA IMAI IN FRONT OF THAT ELECTRONICS STORE?


YOU KNOW,
I'VE NOTICED THAT
YOU'VE BEEN ACTING STRANGELY THESE PAST FEW DAYS.
IS IT BECAUSE...

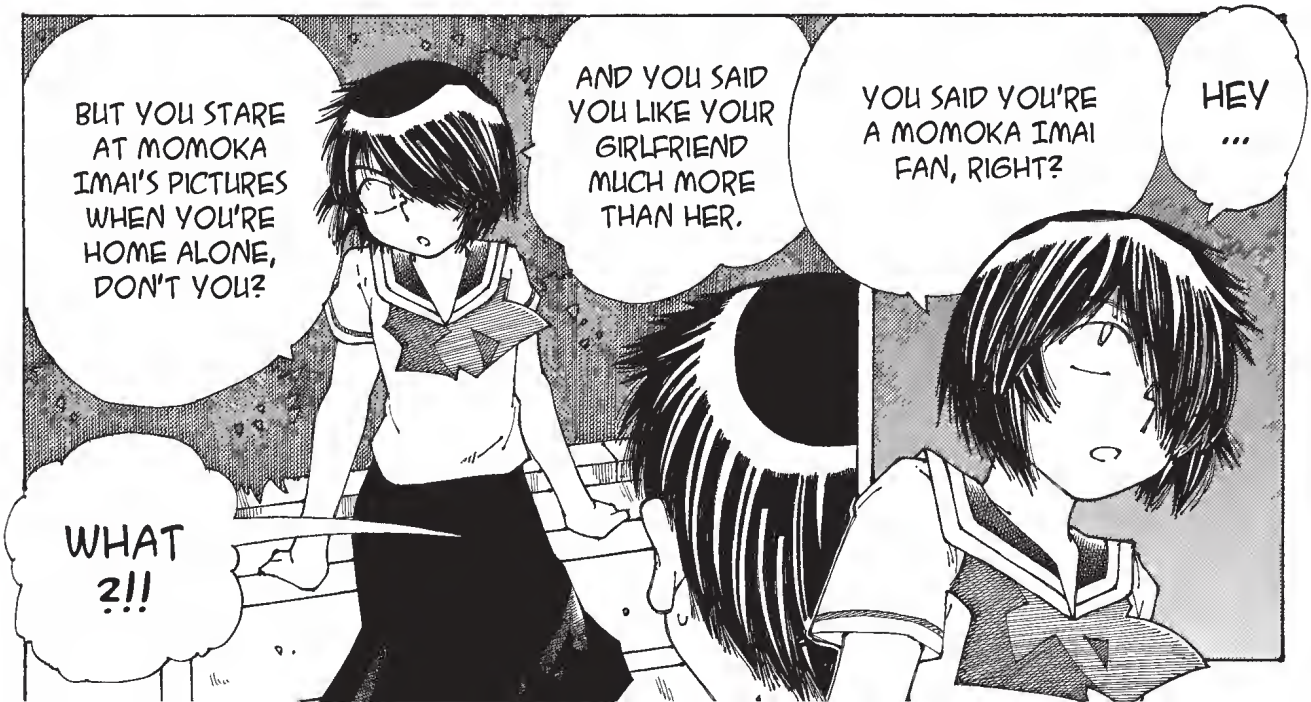
URABE
YOU DON'T SUDDENLY WANT A PERSONALITY
LIKE MOMOKA IMAI, DO YOU?

IT'S TRUE THAT I'M A FAN OF HERS,
BUT I ONLY BECAME A FAN OF HERS BECAUSE SHE LOOKS LIKE YOU...
AND I BOUGHT HER PHOTO BOOK...
I LIKE THE MOODY, ANTISOCIAL URABE WAY MORE THAN I LIKE
THE BRIGHT
AND CHEERFUL MOMOKA.

I LIKE YOU MUCH MORE.

THEN THAT'S WHY THE DROOL YOU GAVE ME TODAY
DIDN'T TASTE SWEET.
BECAUSE YOU'RE TRYING TO BE SOMEONE YOU'RE NOT...

IF I'M RIGHT,
AND YOU'RE ACTING WEIRD LATELY BECAUSE
YOU WANT TO BE LIKE MOMOKA IMAI,

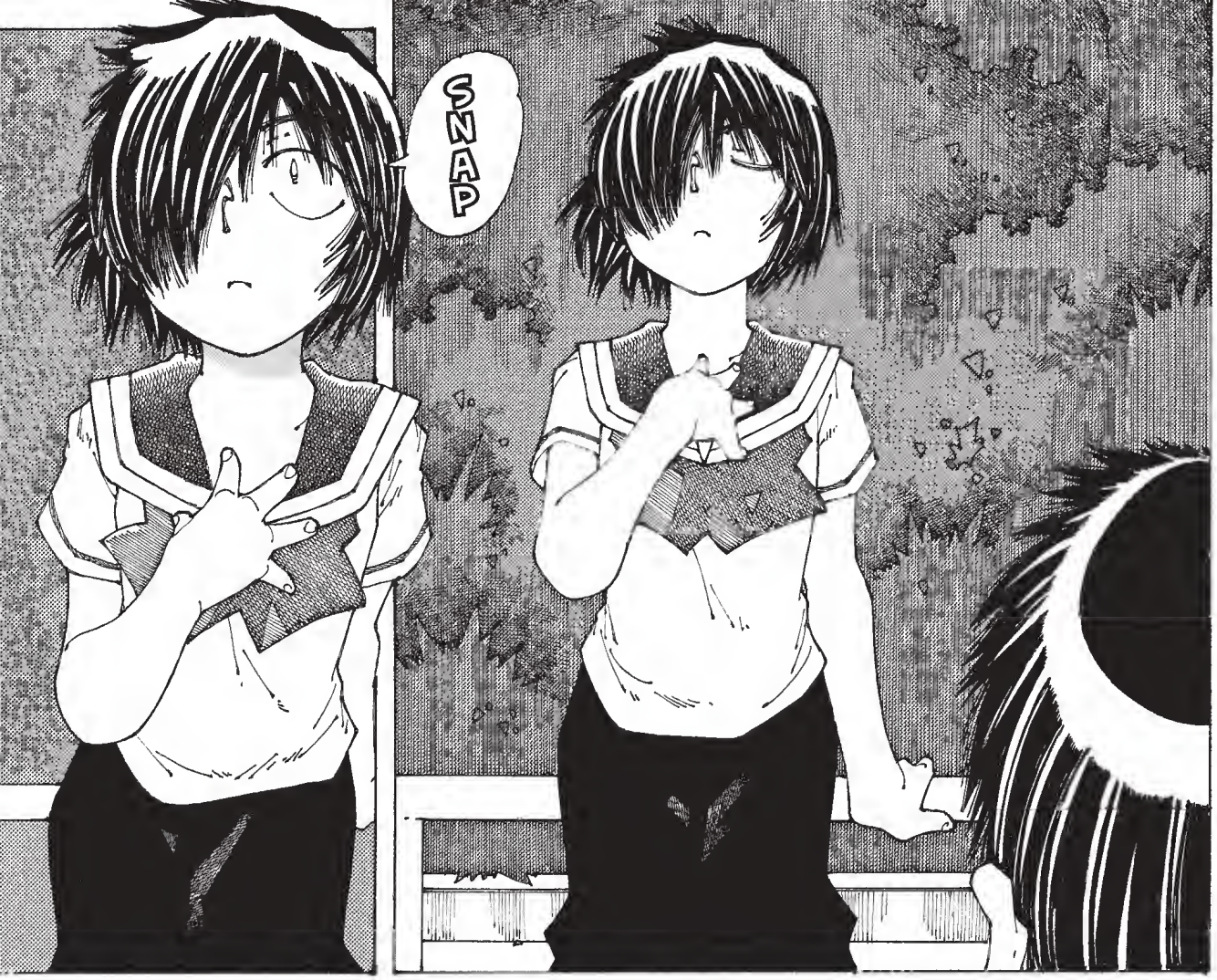

HEY ...
YOU SAID YOU'RE A MOMOKA IMAI FAN, RIGHT?
AND YOU SAID YOU LIKE YOUR GIRLFRIEND MUCH MORE THAN HER.
BUT YOU STARE AT MOMOKA IMAI'S PICTURES WHEN YOU'RE HOME ALONE, DON'T YOU?
WHAT ?!!

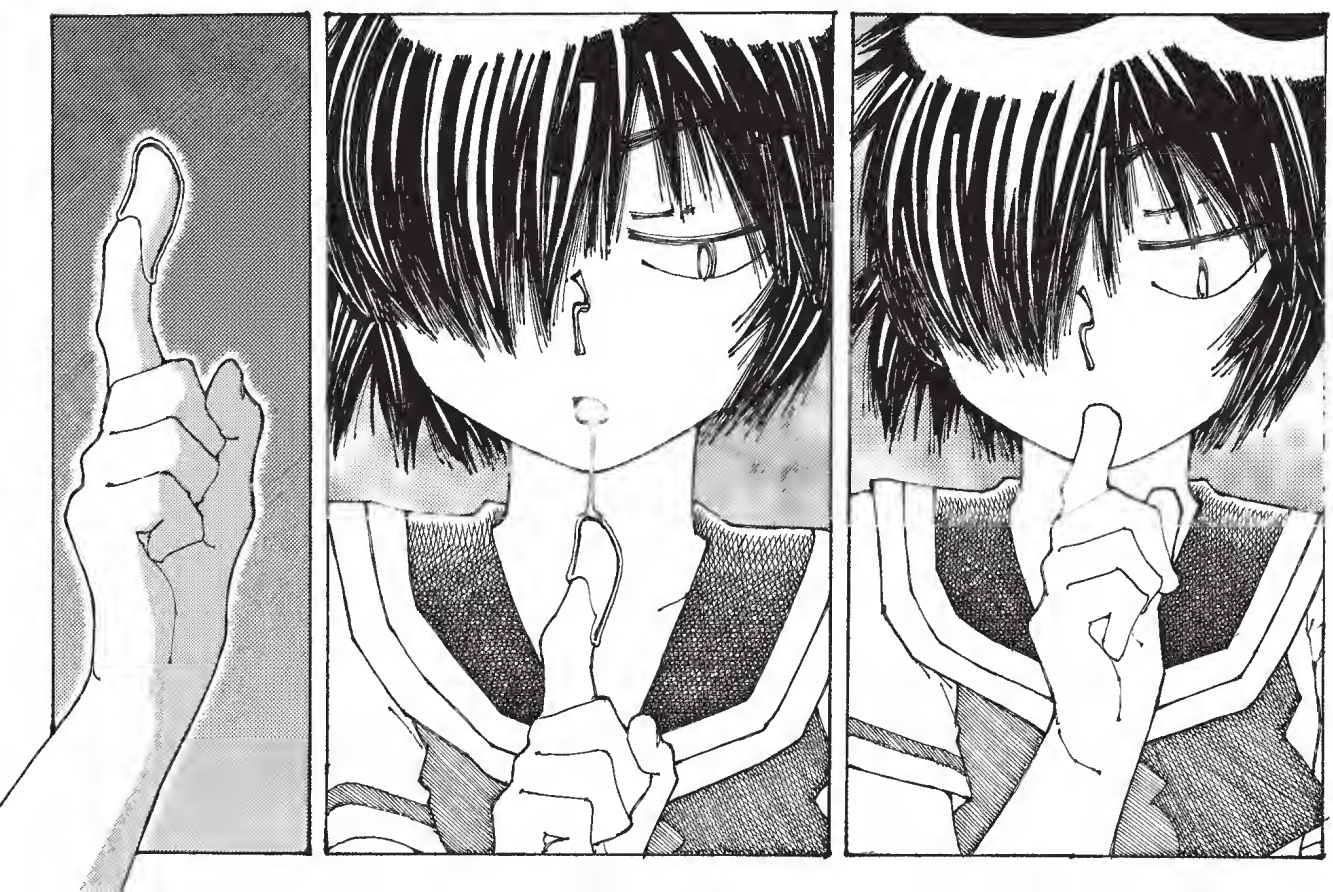
I BOUGHT TWO AND YOU DESTROYED BOTH.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOU CUT UP MY MOMOKA IMAI PHOTO BOOKS
WITH YOUR SCISSORS, REMEMBER?
AH HA HA HA ...
BEFORE WE EVEN MET,
MIKOTO WAS JEALOUS OF ME!
I GET IT!
AH HA HA HA HA ...
THE PHOTO BOOKS ?!
WHAT ?
WITH SCISSORS ?!
HEY,
TSUBAKI...
KICK
KICK
PFFFT
HA HA...

IF...
AND THIS IS JUST "IF"...
IF YOUR GIRLFRIEND, MIKOTO URABE,
HAD ACTUALLY SWITCHED PLACES WITHOUT YOU KNOWING,
AND THE GIRL BEFORE YOU NOW WAS MOMOKA IMAI, THE IDOL...
WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

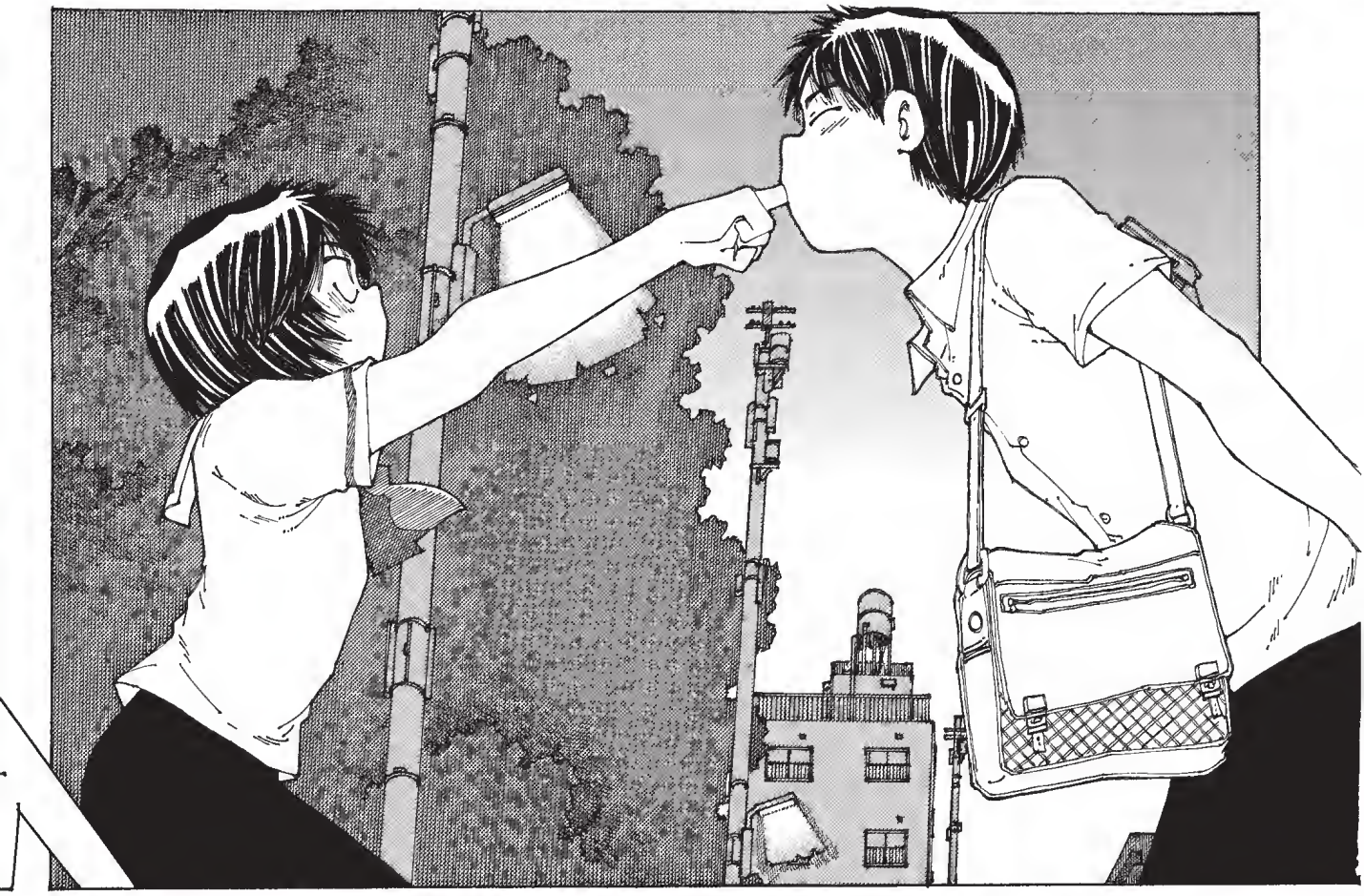
THAT ...
THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE AT ALL!
IT'S HYPO-THETICAL!
BUT GIVE IT SERIOUS THOUGHT!
THEN,
IF YOU BROKE UP WITH MIKOTO URABE
AND I SAID YOU COULD DATE
ME, MOMOKA IMAI...
WHO WOULD YOU CHOOSE?
MIKOTO OR MOMOKA?!
IF YOU CHOSE MOMOKA,
YOU'D GET EVERYONE'S FAVORITE IDOL ALL TO YOURSELF.
KNOWING THAT,
WHO WOULD YOU CHOOSE?!

I'D CHOOSE
URABE, OF COURSE.
IS EVERYONE'S FAVORITE IDOL,
EVEN IF THE OTHER CHOICE
WHMM
THE ONE I HAVE A BOND WITH THROUGH DROOL
IS STILL
URABE, AND ONLY URABE...


SNAP



TASTE THIS...
ONE MORE TIME
AND SEE FOR YOURSELF
WHETHER MY DROOL
IS SWEET OR NOT...



SHLLP
...
...
HMM
...
WELL?

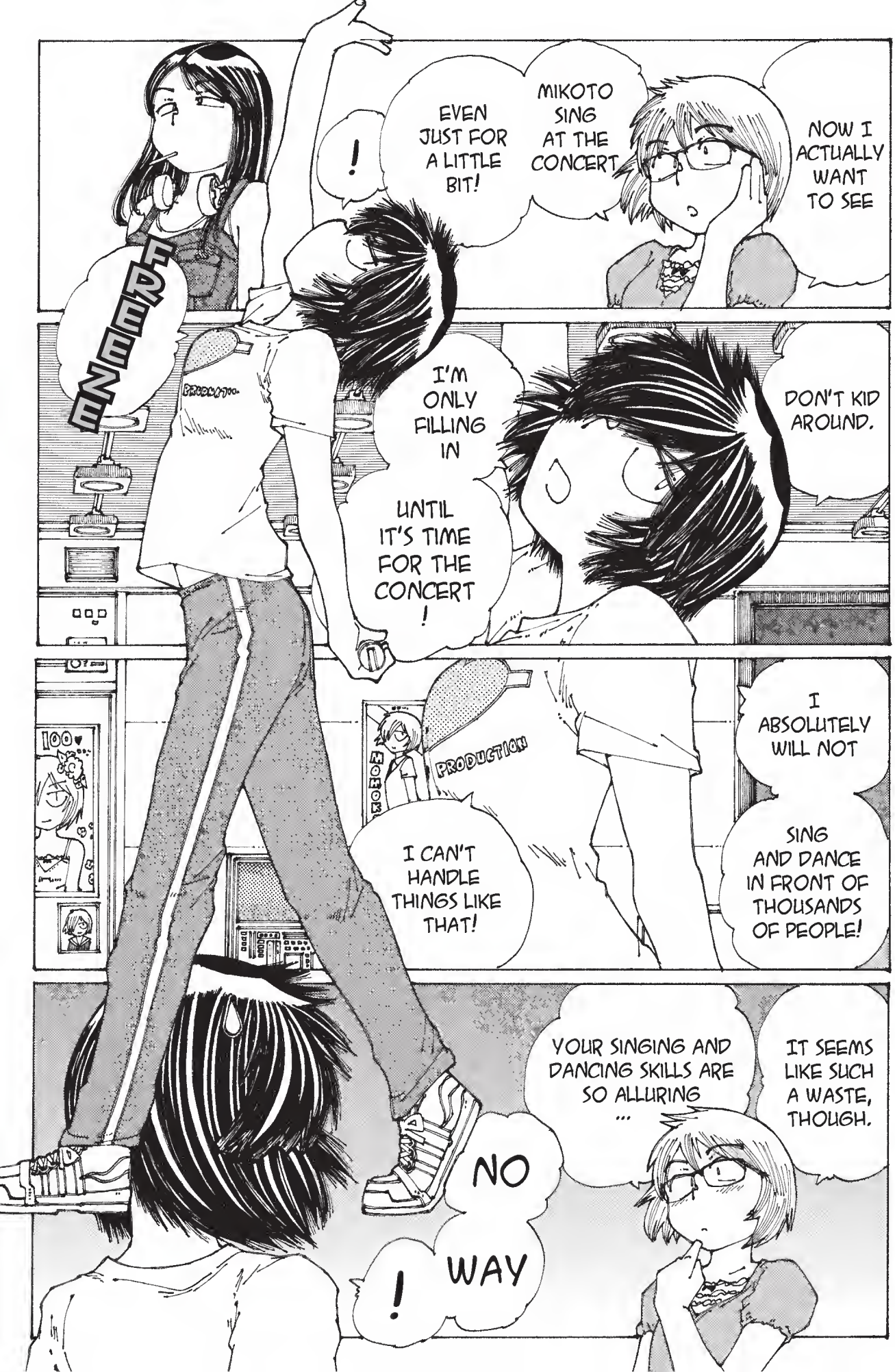
AS IT USUALLY IS.
IT'S STILL NOWHERE NEAR AS SWEET
BUT...
A LITTLE SWEETER THAN LAST TIME...
I THINK IT'S
MUCH MORE THAN THIS CHEERFUL URABE!
I LIKE THE USUAL, SURLY URABE
URABE!
DON'T COMPARE YOURSELF TO MOMOKA IMAI!
I...
IF YOU ACT LIKE YOURSELF AGAIN, I'M SURE YOUR DROOL WILL GO BACK TO BEING SWEET.

HUH?
AND HERE I WAS THINKING THAT IF WE HAD A TRUE BOND,
THEN I
SERIOUSLY WOULD HAVE DATED YOU...
HM?
TSUBAKI.
HAND ME MY BAG!
BUT WHERE ...
DO YOU WANT TO GO?
A DATE ?
LET'S GO ON A DATE!
THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW, SUNDAY,
A CONCERT.
HUH? YOUR BAG?

END OF CHAPTER 45

CHAPTER 46: MYSTERIOUS SWITCH

JANG
MEC
KSYUNG
SO...
YOU'RE
GREAT,
MIKOTO
!


NOW I ACTUALLY WANT TO SEE
MIKOTO SING AT THE CONCERT
EVEN JUST FOR A LITTLE BIT!
!
FREEZE
DON'T KID AROUND.
I'M ONLY FILLING IN
UNTIL IT'S TIME FOR THE CONCERT !
I ABSOLUTELY WILL NOT
SING AND DANCE IN FRONT OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE!
PRODUCTION
I CAN'T HANDLE THINGS LIKE THAT!
IT SEEMS LIKE SUCH A WASTE, THOUGH.
YOUR SINGING AND DANCING SKILLS ARE SO ALLURING ...
NO WAY !

THAT WANTS TO STAND OUT IN PUBLIC!
A-AT ANY RATE, I'VE NEVER BEEN THE TYPE
MR. TAKAGI?
WHO COULD THAT BE?
PIIIING
YOU SURE ABOUT THAT?
HELLO!
THIS IS KYUNE ♥ PRODUC-TIONS ...
WHAT ...?
MO-
MO-MOKA?!
WHERE ARE YOU RIGHT NOW?!!

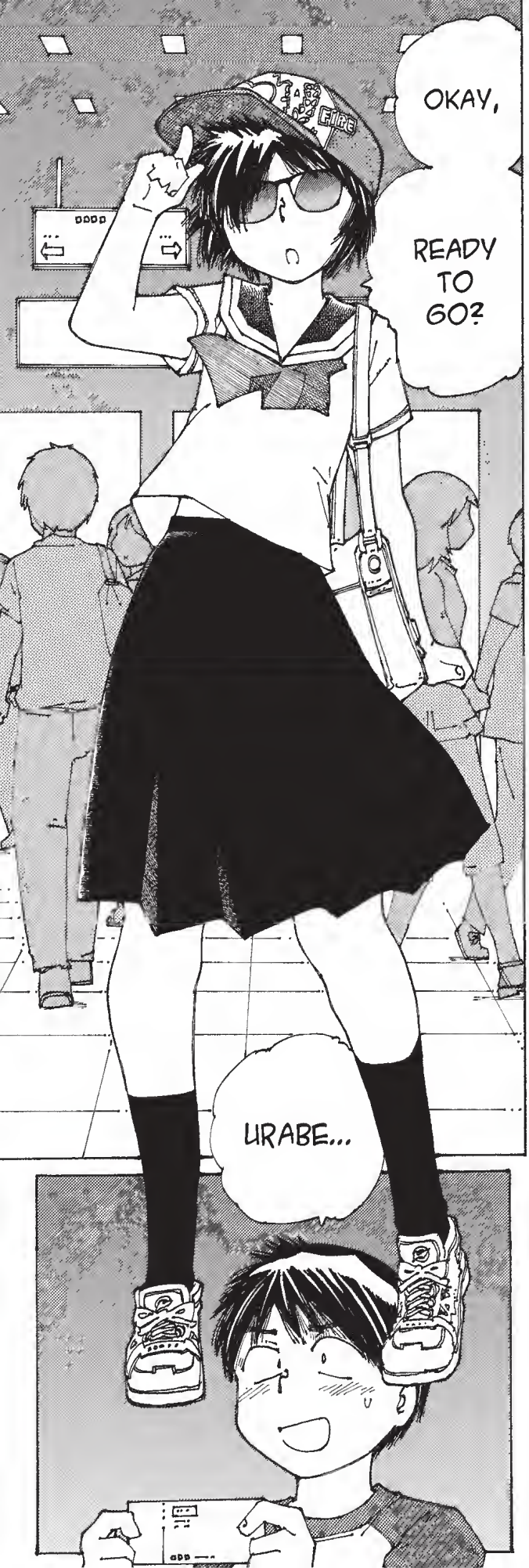
EVERYONE'S WORRIED ABOUT YOU!!
COME BACK RIGHT AWAY!!
WHAT ...?
NOT YET?
SO YOU SAY, BUT...
SOUNDS LIKE IT'S MOMOKA ...!
WHAT ...?!
UH, WELL...
SHE IS HERE WITH US, YES...
...
MIKOTO,
MOMOKA WANTS TO
TALK TO YOU...

WHAT?
I TRIED BEING MIKOTO URABE ALL DAY TODAY,
OH, MIKOTO ?
AND CONFIRMED IT FOR MYSELF.
ABOUT THAT "BOND"
BETWEEN YOU AND TSUBAKI.
IT REALLY MADE ME ENVY YOU TWO.
I DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT! JUST GET BACK HERE NOW!
YOU HAVE A CONCERT THE DAY AFTER TOMOR-ROW!
AH!
RIGHT!
THAT'S WHAT I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT.
SINCE I SPENT TODAY BEING MIKOTO URABE,
NOW IT'S YOUR TURN TO BE MOMOKA IMAI!

YOU'LL SING ON STAGE FOR THE FIRST HALF OF THE CONCERT AS MOMOKA IMAI!
THEN I'LL COME BACK AND TAKE YOUR PLACE FOR THE SECOND HALF!
I...
I CAN'T POSSIBLY DO THAT!
OH, RIGHT!
FOR THE DAY OF THE SHOW...
I GAVE TSUBAKI A TICKET,
SO HE'LL BE IN THE AUDIENCE.
TSU...
TSUBAKI?!
YUP.
WHEN YOU AND I BOTH SING ON THE STAGE IN FRONT OF HIM,
I'LL FIND OUT THE LAST THING I WANT TO KNOW.

BEEP...
BEEP...
BEEP...
WAIT JUST A MINUTE !!
KLICK
WELL, TAKE CARE OF THE FIRST HALF FOR ME!
WHA!
BU—
WAIT...

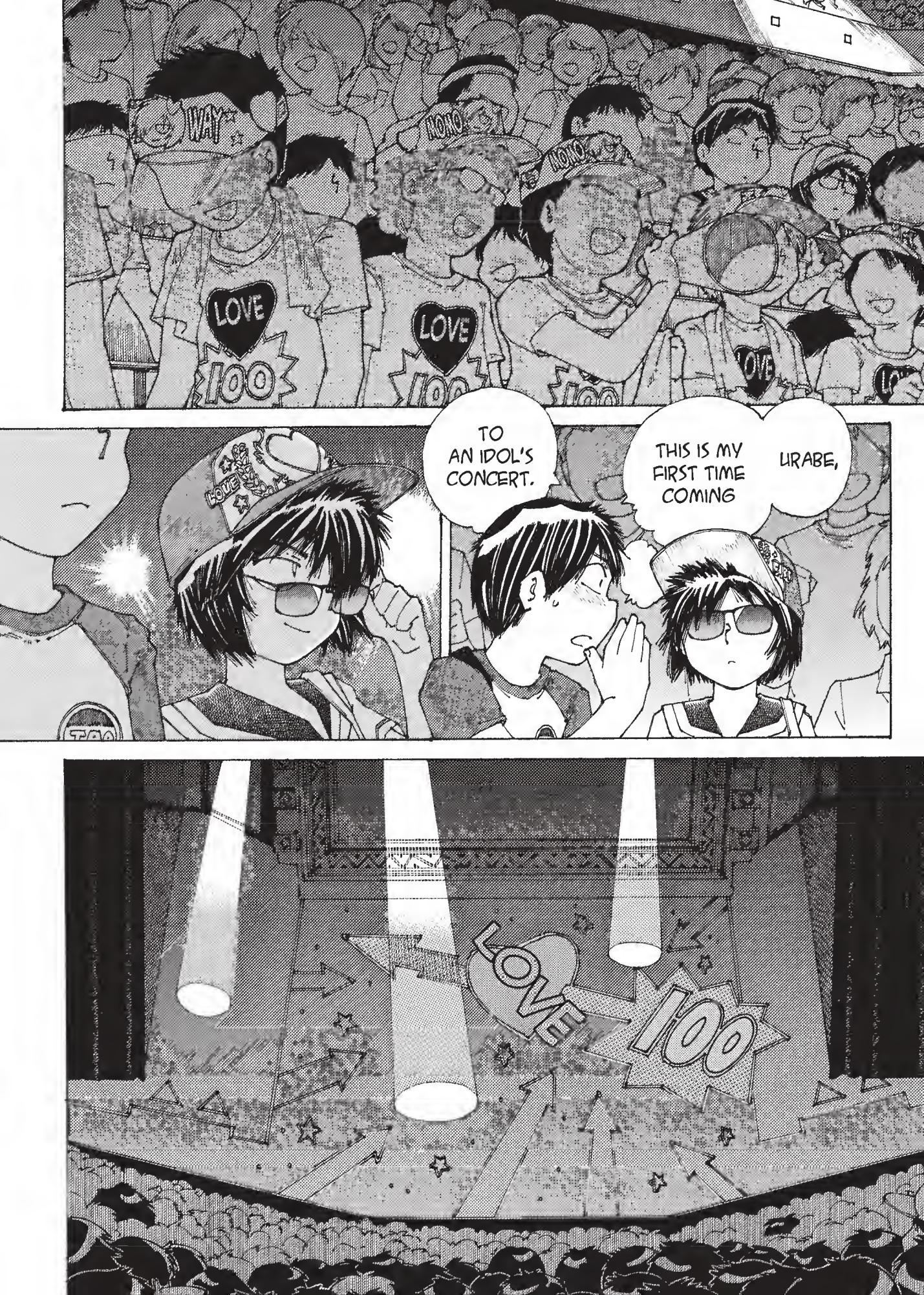
BEEP...
BEEP...
BEEP...
...
MIKOTO,
UH...
WHAT DID MOMOKA SAY?

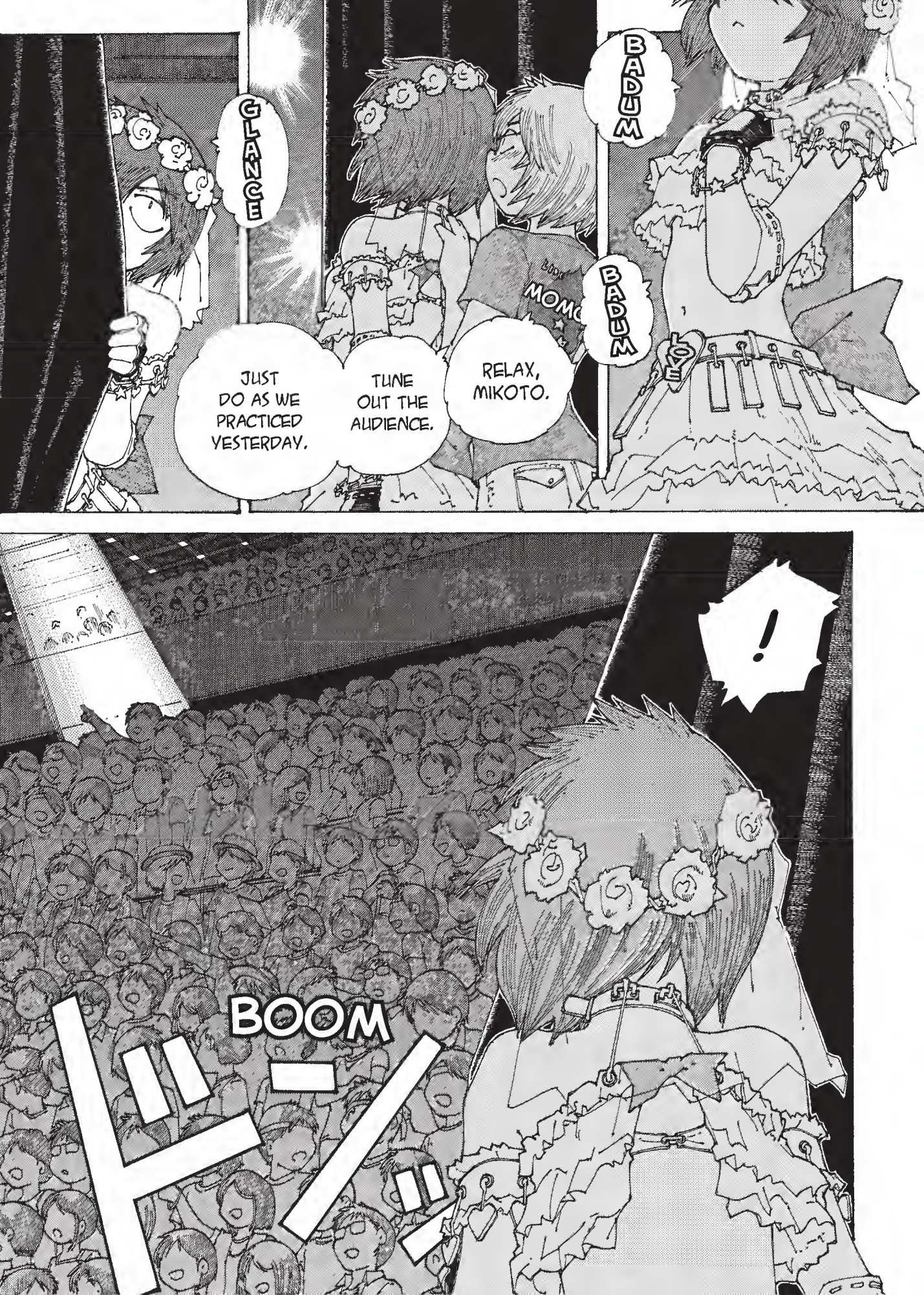

OKAY,
READY TO GO?
URABE...

COLLEGE SEMINAR
YOU'LL GET IN!
TV
TALK ABOUT WEIRD, THOUGH...
URABE HATED MOMOKA IMAI SO MUCH...
I NEVER THOUGHT SHE'D INVITE ME TO HER CONCERT.
TICKET 7/7
MOMOKA IMAI
SUMMER 20XX CONCERT TOUR
THE MOMOWAY RENEWAL
TOKYO
TSUBAKI!
DID YOU WAIT LONG?

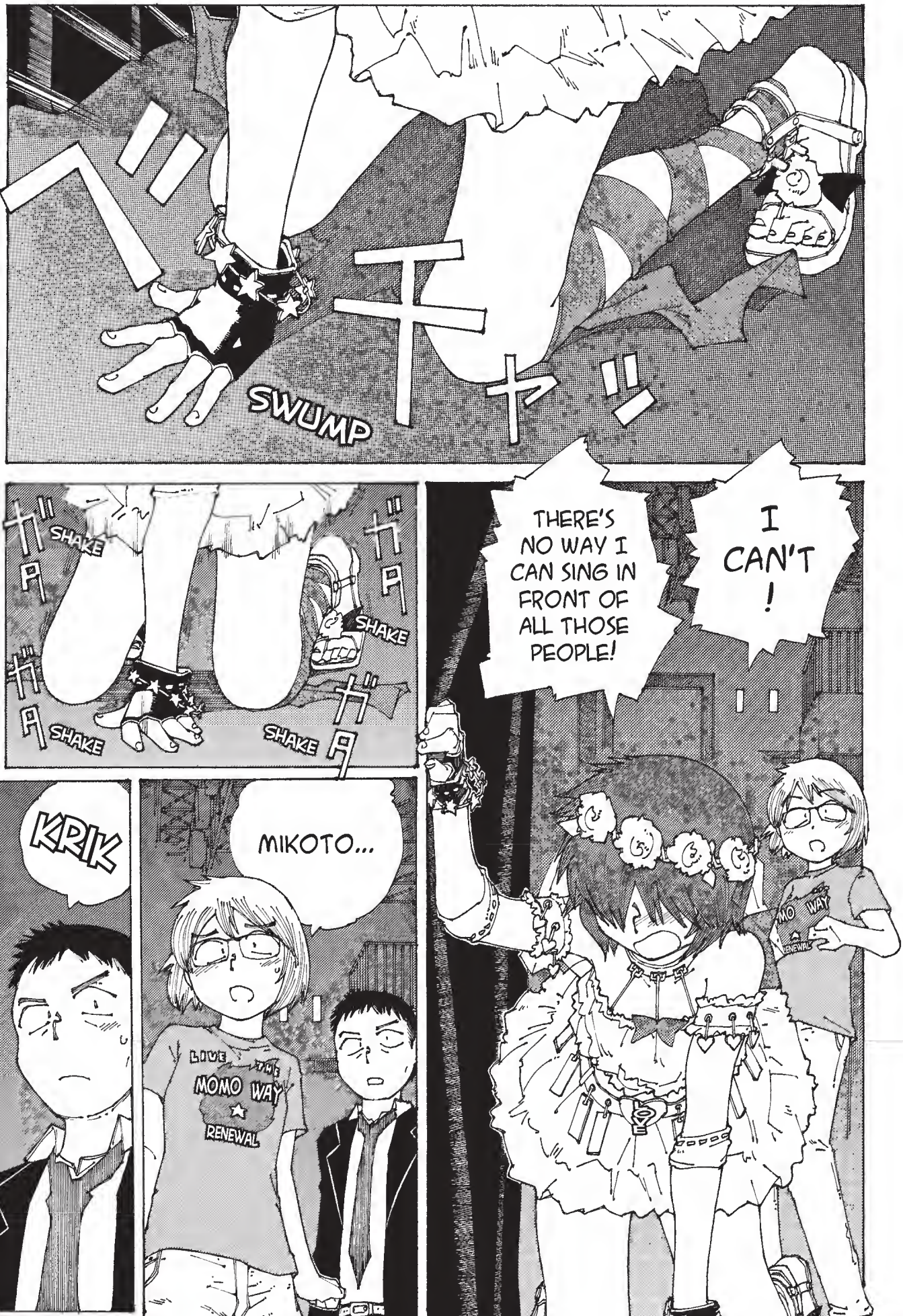
YOUR UNIFORM ...
AND WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THOSE SUN-GLASSES?
WELL, I LOOK LIKE MOMOKA IMAI, RIGHT?
IF I DON'T CAMOUFLAGE MYSELF LIKE THIS,
PEOPLE AT THE VENUE MIGHT THINK I'M HER.
LET'S GO!
OKAY!
WELL...
I GUESS THAT'S TRUE...
MOMOKA DID SAY
GREEN ROOM
MS. MOMOKA IMAI
KYUNE♥ PRODUCTIONS
307
TO TAKE OVER
THAT SHE'D BE BACK
FOR THE SECOND HALF OF THE SHOW, RIGHT?
MOMOKA WILL BE BACK BY THE SECOND HALF!
THAT MEANS
SO,
NOD NOD
LIVE THE MOMO WAY
LIVE THE MOMO WAY

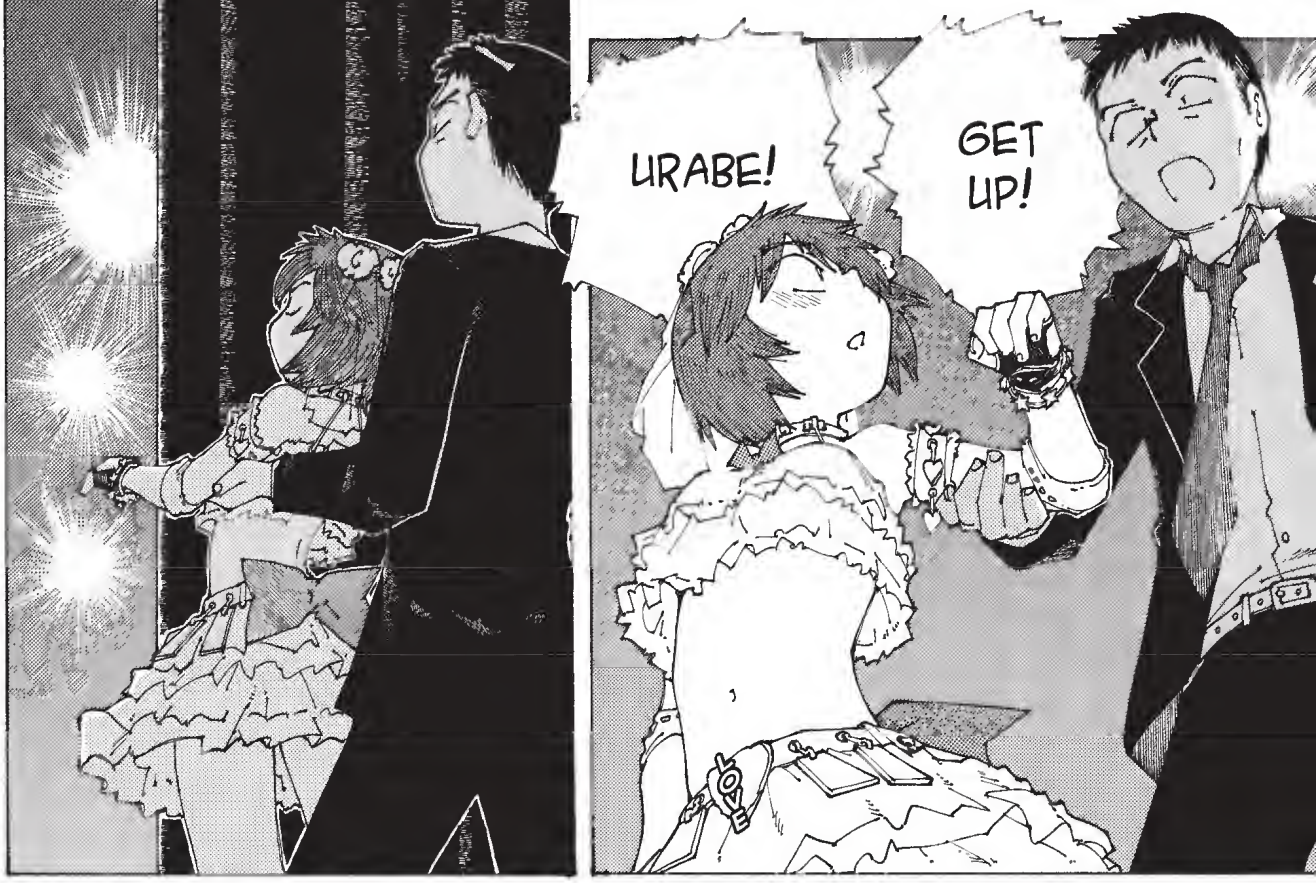
MIKOTO !!
THAT'S RIGHT! I COULD TELL FROM THESE FEW DAYS OF REHEARSALS THAT YOU'RE AS GOOD AS MOMOKA!
YOU CAN PULL IT OFF!
GO OUT ON STAGE UNTIL THEN!
URABE! I BEG YOU!
...
...
IT'S ALMOST TIME.
OKAY!
LET'S GET TO IT!
LIVE
MOMO
MOKA

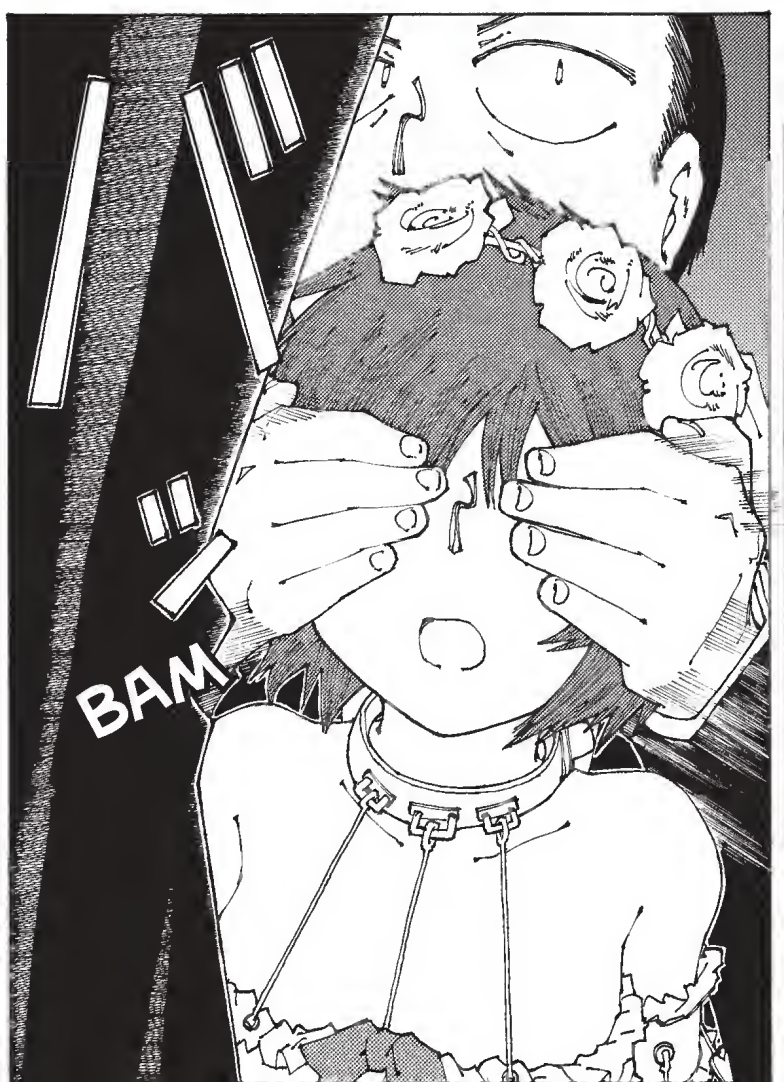

WAY
LOVE
100
LOVE
100
LOVE
TO AN IDOL'S CONCERT.
THIS IS MY FIRST TIME COMING
URABE,
LOVE 100

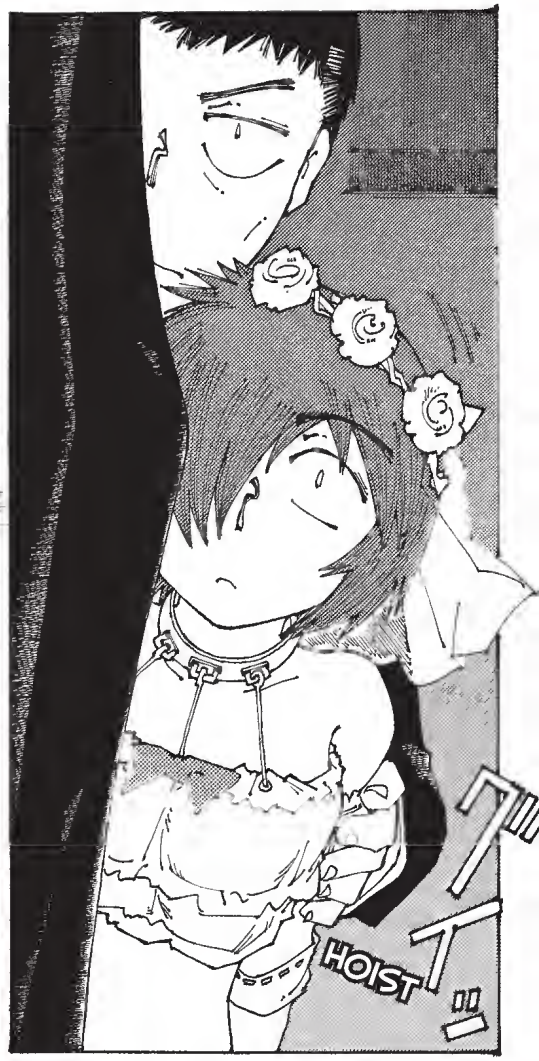

GLANCE
JUST DO AS WE PRACTICED YESTERDAY.
TUNE OUT THE AUDIENCE.
RELAX, MIKOTO.
BADUM
BADUM
MOMO
LOVE
!
BOOM
ドーン

ざわ
MURMUR
ざわ
MURMUR
ざわ
MURMUR


ベキャッ
SWUMP
I CAN'T!
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN SING IN FRONT OF ALL THOSE PEOPLE!
ガ SHAKE
ガ SHAKE
ガ SHAKE
ガ SHAKE
MIKOTO...
KRIK
LIVE
MOMO WAY
RENEWAL

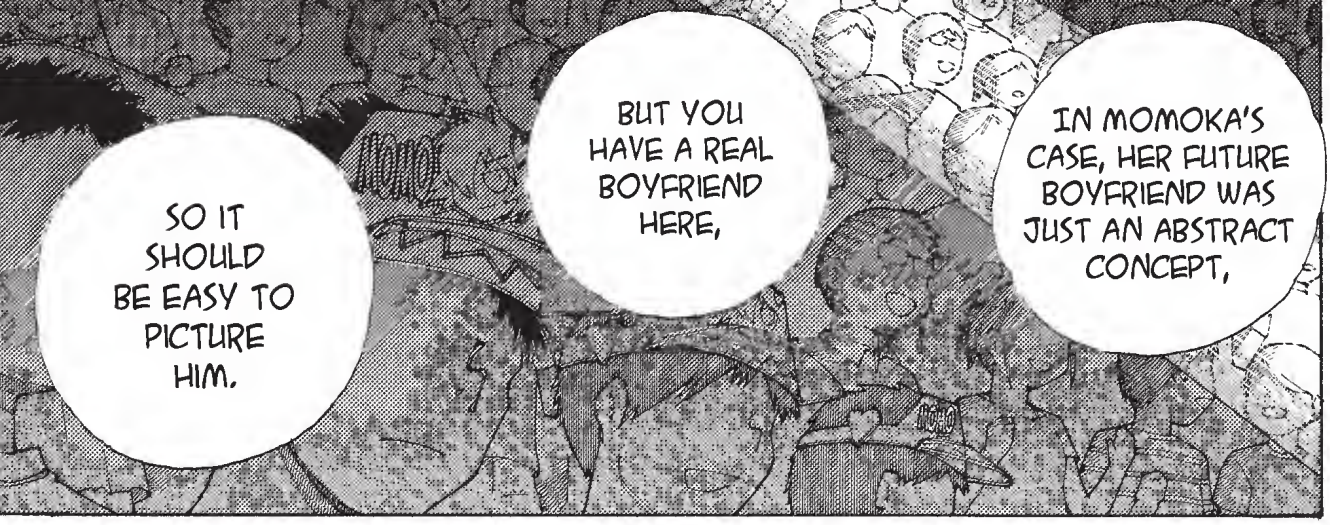

URABE!
GET UP!
LOVE

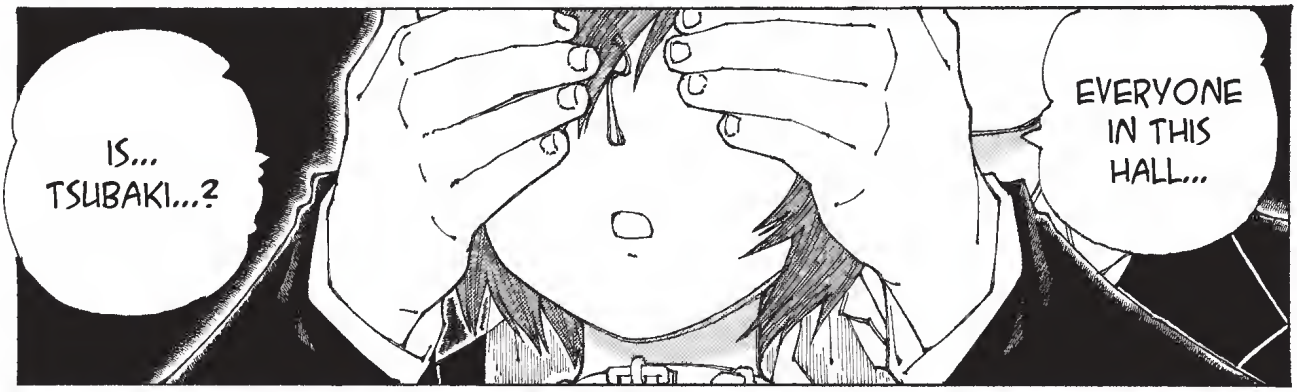

BAM

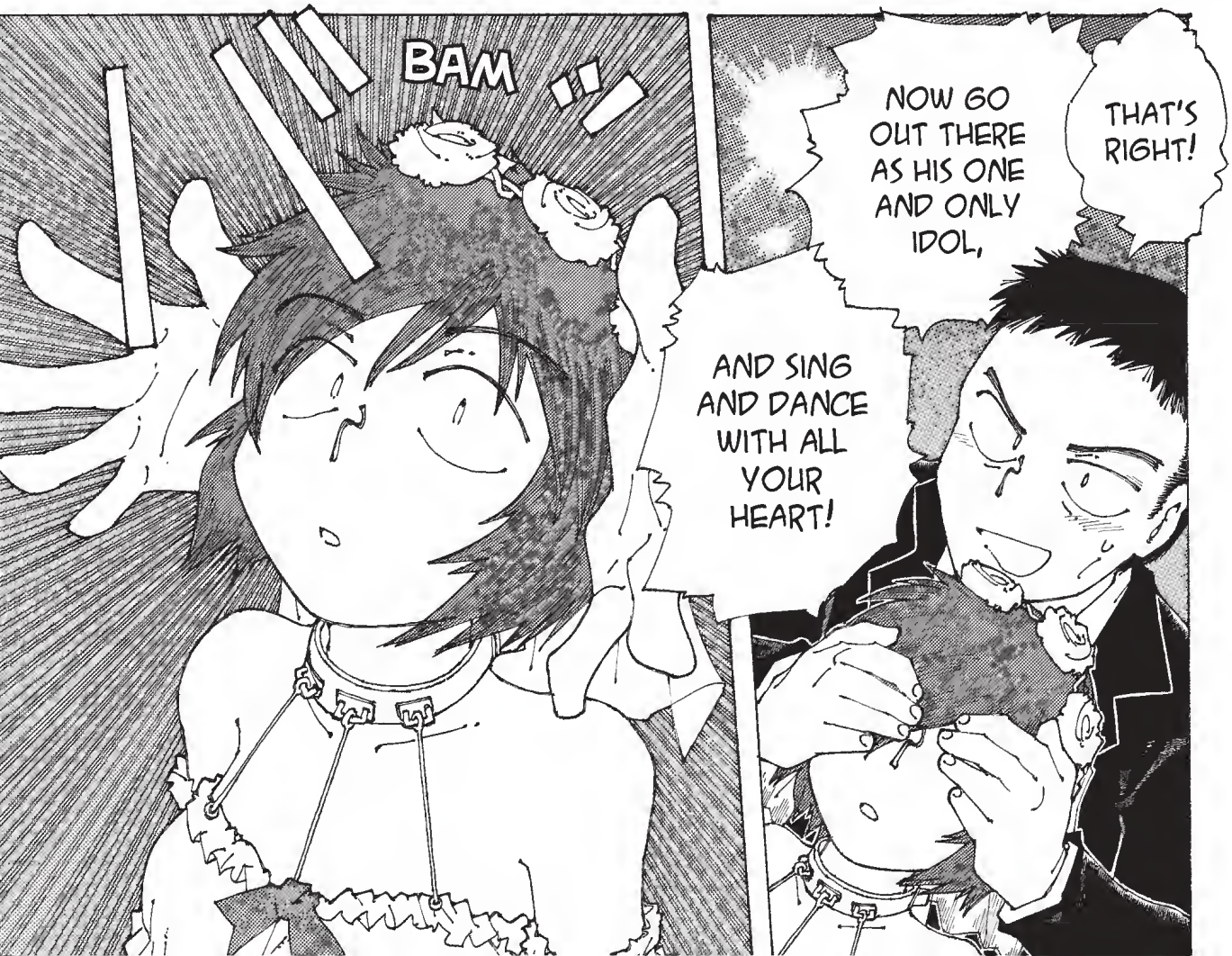

HOIST

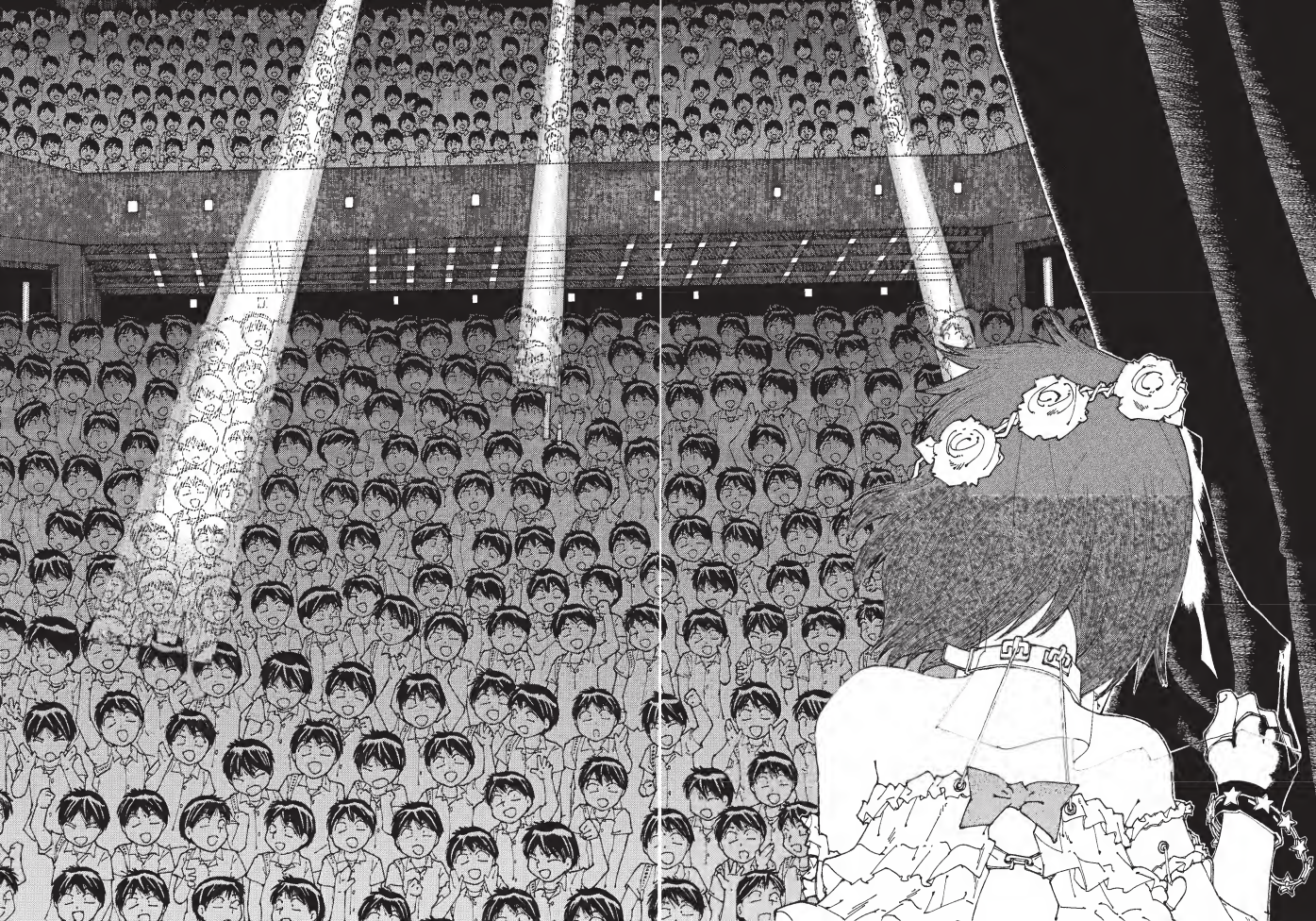
URABE!
ACCORDING TO WHAT MOMOKA SAID...
YOUR BOYFRIEND IS IN THIS HALL RIGHT NOW...!
HUH?!
UH...
YEAH...
A YEAR AGO, AT HER FIRST CONCERT,
I TOLD MOMOKA
TO SING WITH ALL HER MIGHT,
AS THOUGH THE WHOLE AUDIENCE WAS HER FUTURE BOYFRIEND.
MOMOKA DID THAT,
AND PUT ON A FANTASTIC SHOW.
URABE,
YOU CAN DO THE SAME THING.

SOMEWHERE IN THIS BIG HALL,
YOUR BOYFRIEND IS HERE TO WATCH YOU SING.
IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, THE ONE THING A BOYFRIEND ADMIRES MOST IS HIS GIRLFRIEND... WHICH MAKES HER JUST LIKE AN IDOL!
SO YOU JUST HAVE TO DO WHAT MOMOKA DID,
AND IMAGINE THAT EVERYONE HERE IS YOUR BOYFRIEND,
AND SING YOUR HEART OUT FOR HIM!


IN MOMOKA'S CASE, HER FUTURE BOYFRIEND WAS JUST AN ABSTRACT CONCEPT,
BUT YOU HAVE A REAL BOYFRIEND HERE,
SO IT SHOULD BE EASY TO PICTURE HIM.

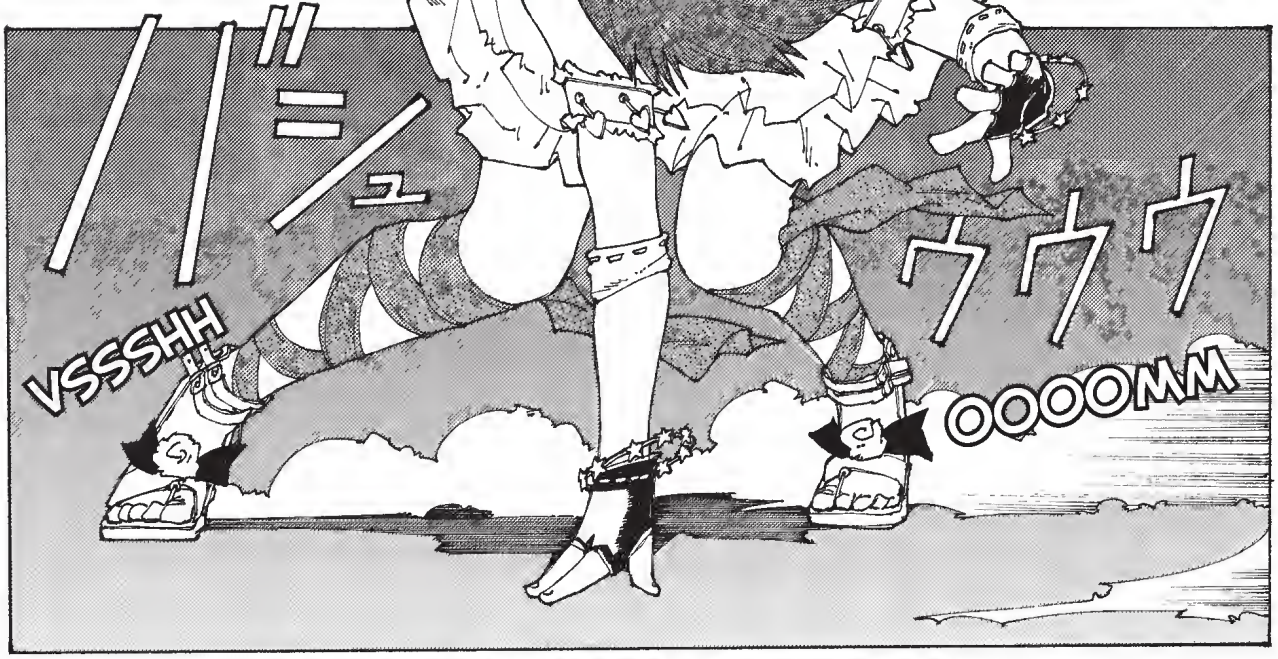

EVERYONE IN THIS HALL...
IS... TSUBAKI...?


THAT'S RIGHT!
NOW GO OUT THERE AS HIS ONE AND ONLY IDOL,
AND SING AND DANCE WITH ALL YOUR HEART!
BAM



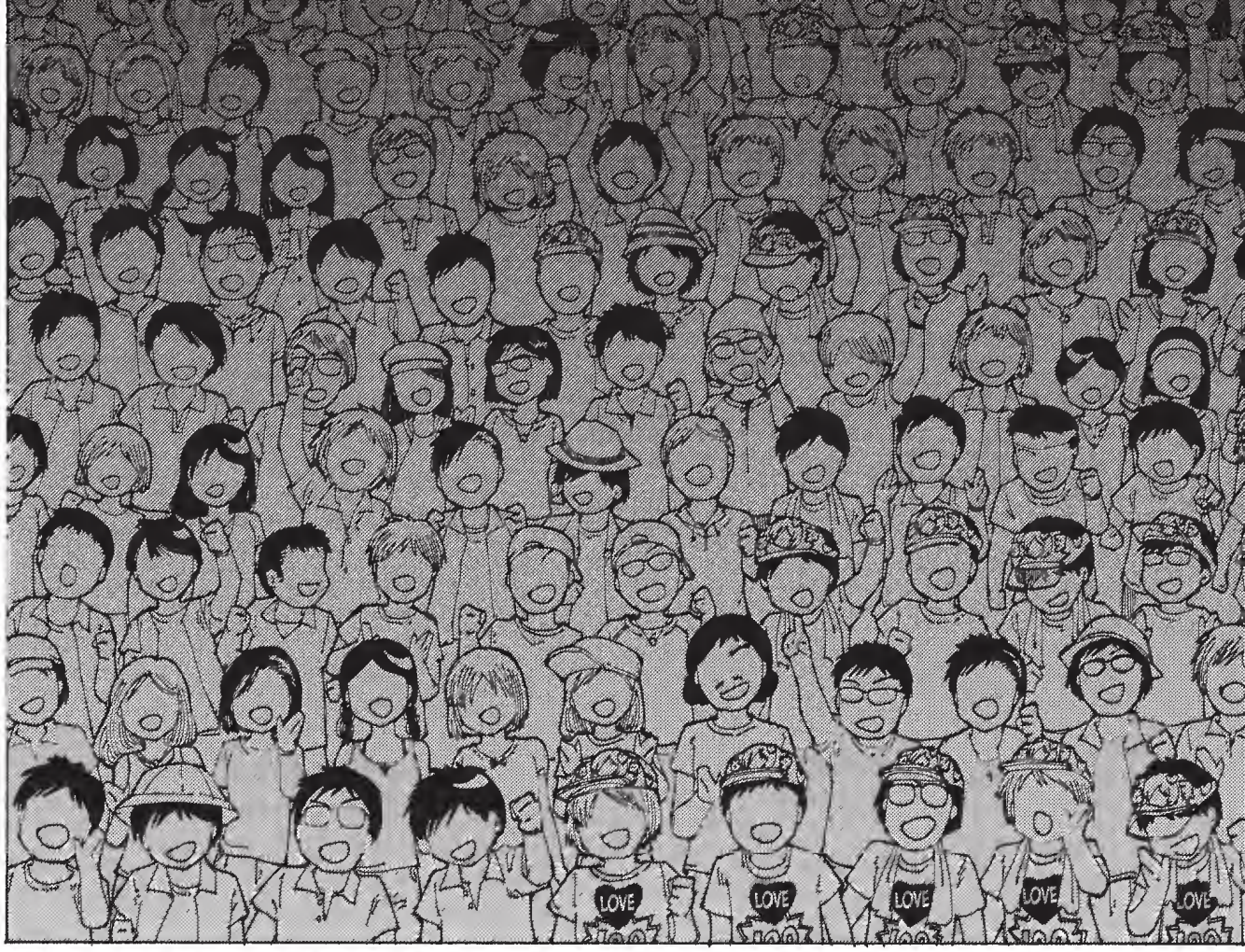
KARK
WHOA !
WHUMP
SPINN

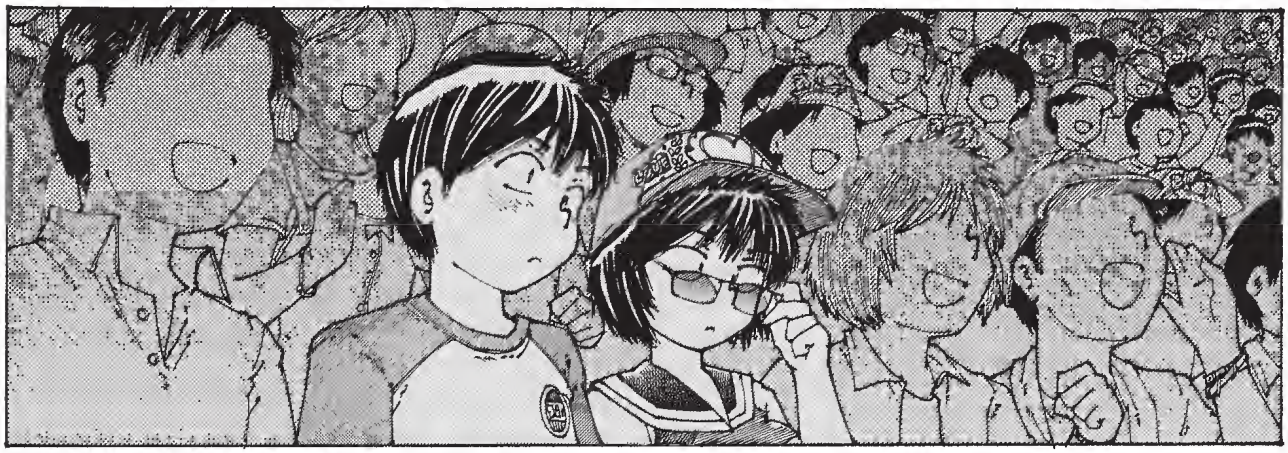
SPIN
SPIN
SPIN
SQUEEK

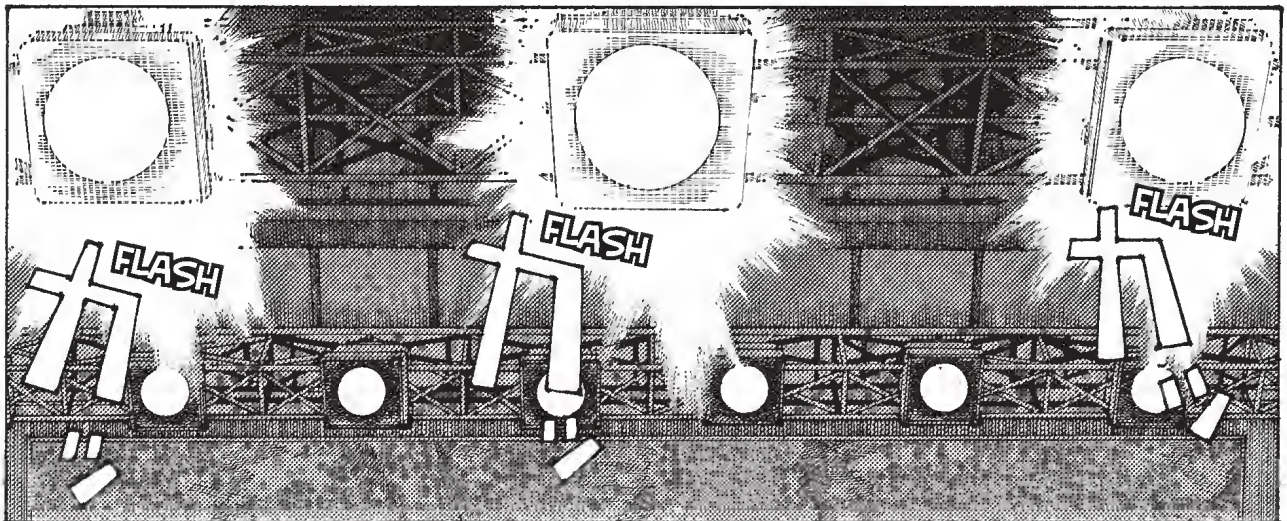


END OF CHAPTER 46

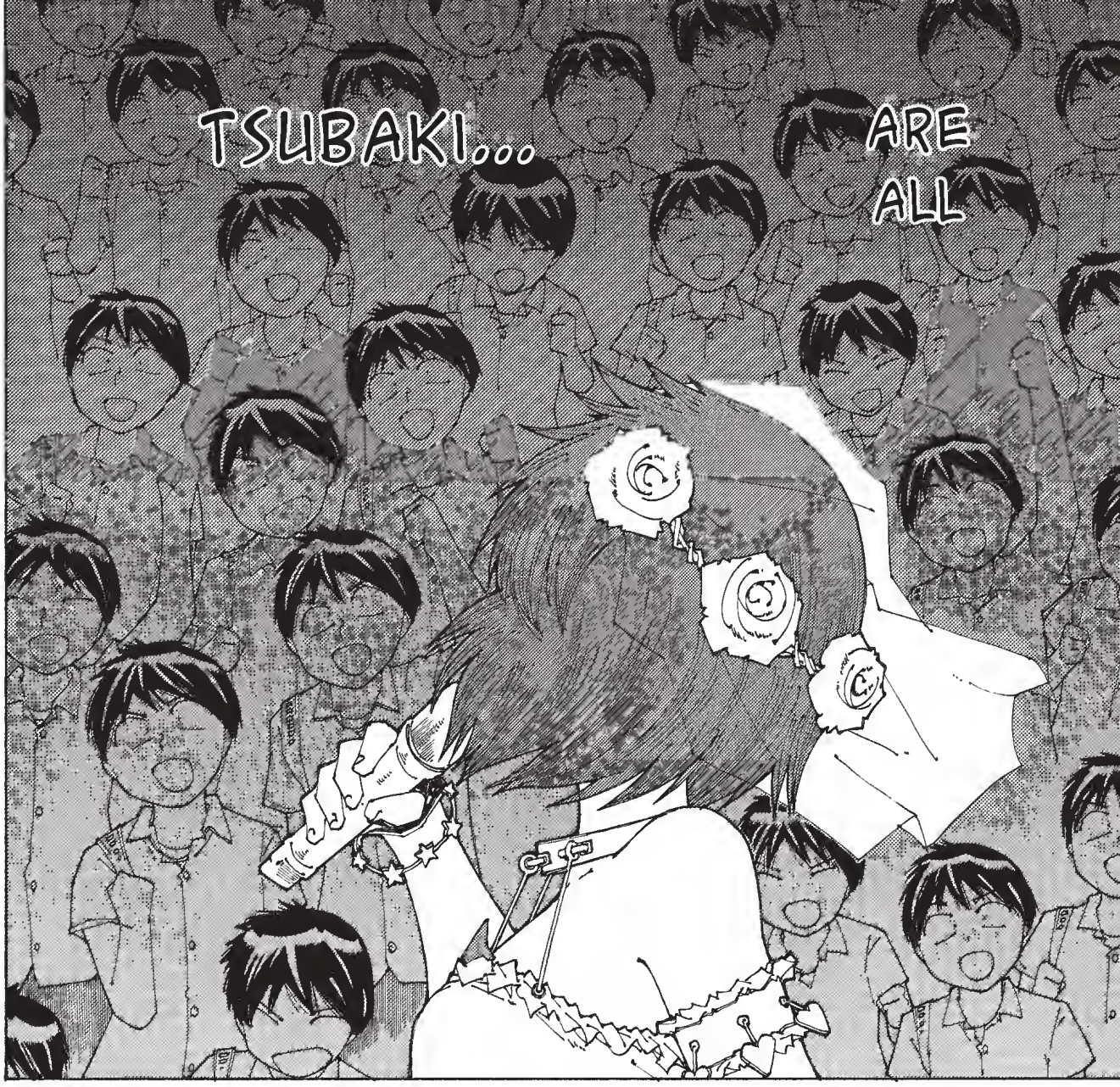
CHAPTER 47: MYSTERIOUS CONCERT


LOVE
LOVE
LOVE
LOVE
LOVE

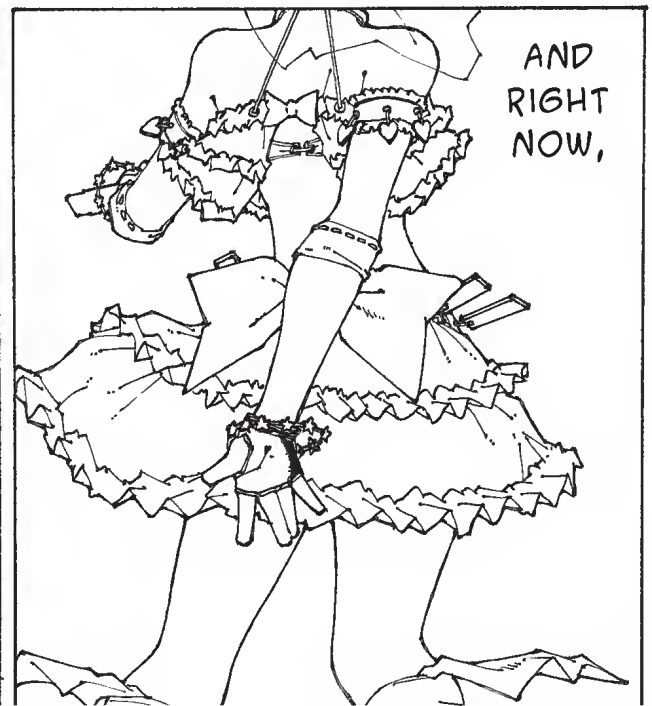



FLASH
FLASH
FLASH

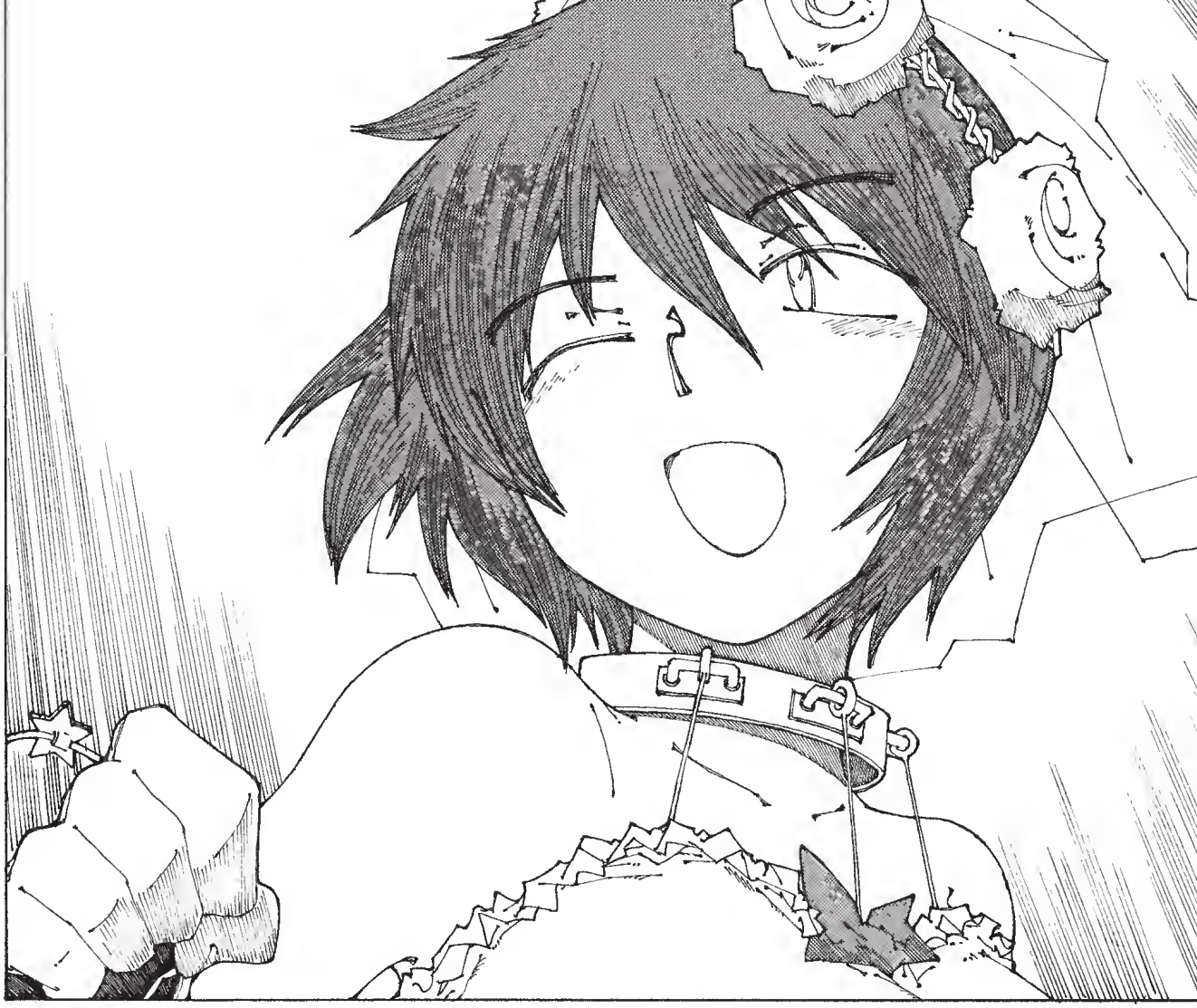
RAAAAAAAH
ワアアアアアアア
ALL THE PEOPLE IN THIS AUDIENCE...
TO ME, RIGHT NOW,

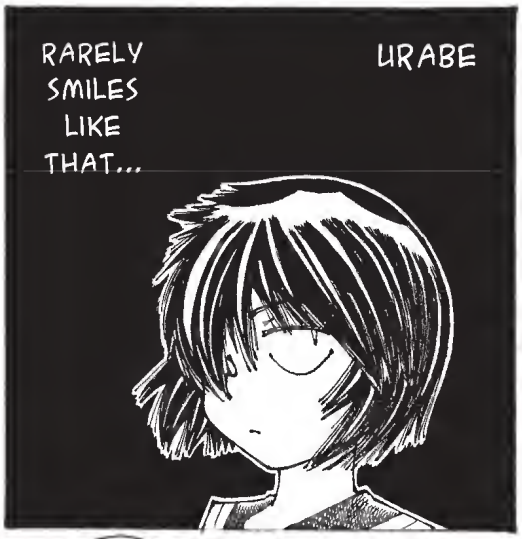

TSUBAKI...
ARE ALL

I'M NOT THE USUAL MIKOTO URABE ...


AND RIGHT NOW,

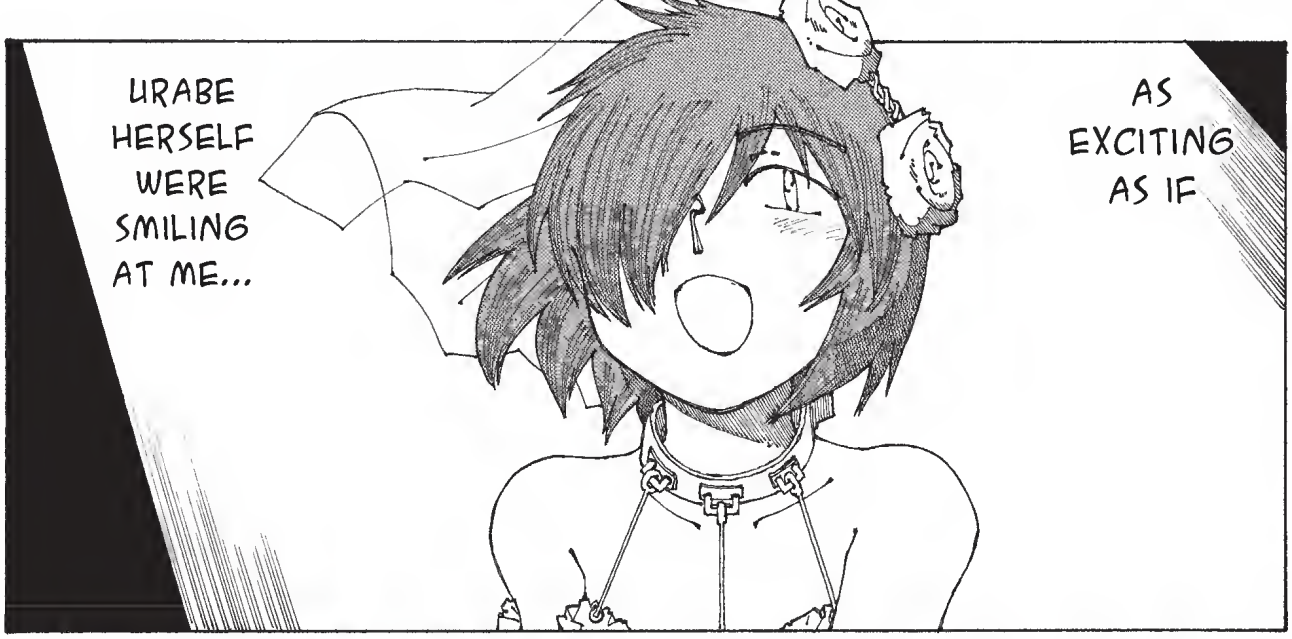
I'M MOMOKA IMAI, THE IDOL!
FOR RIGHT NOW,
WHICH MEANS,
I CAN OPEN UP MY HEART A LITTLE MORE ...




RARELY SMILES LIKE THAT...
URABE

IT'S ALMOST ...

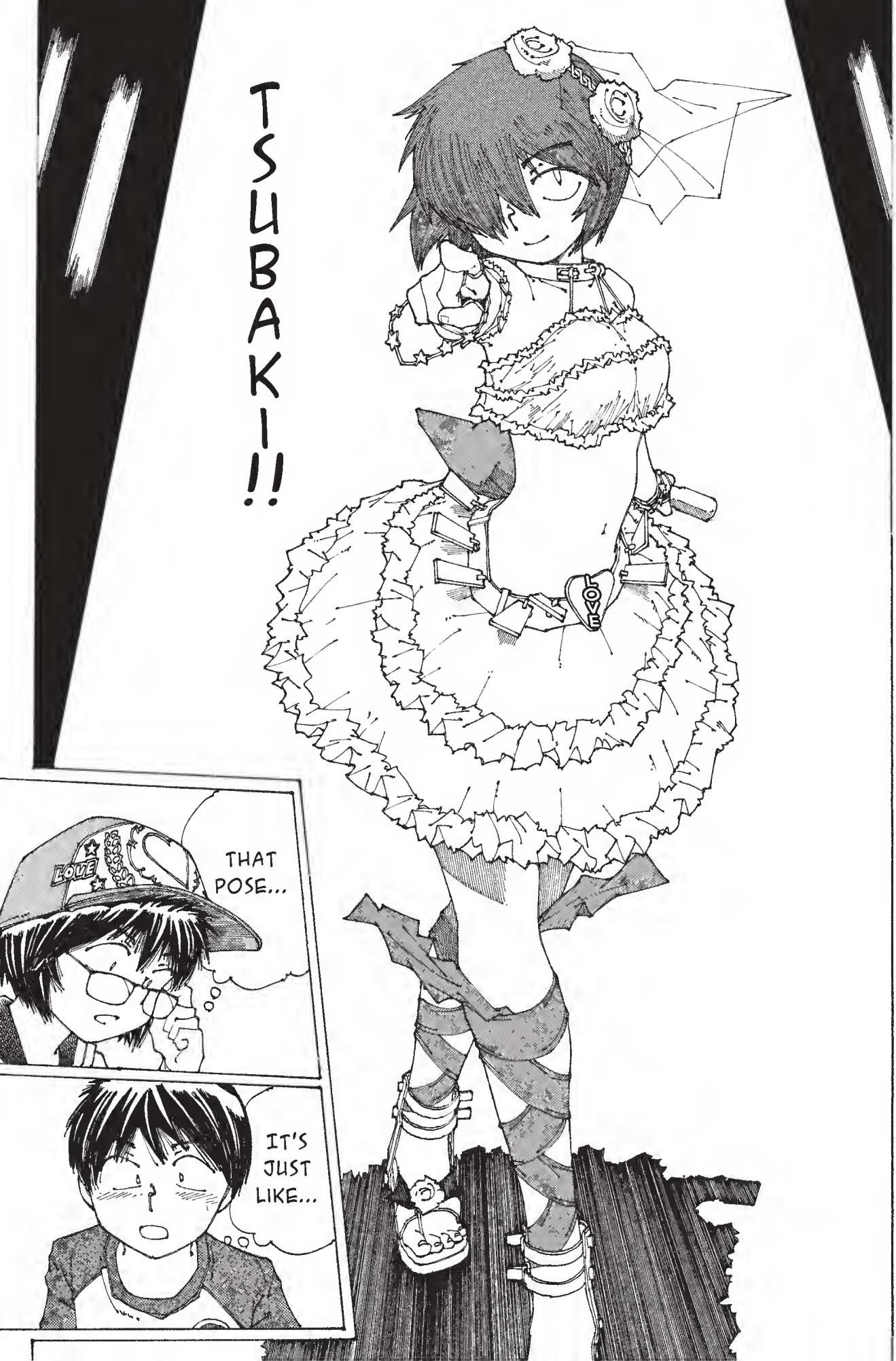
SHE'S SMILING ...
OH...


URABE HERSELF WERE SMILING AT ME...
AS EXCITING AS IF

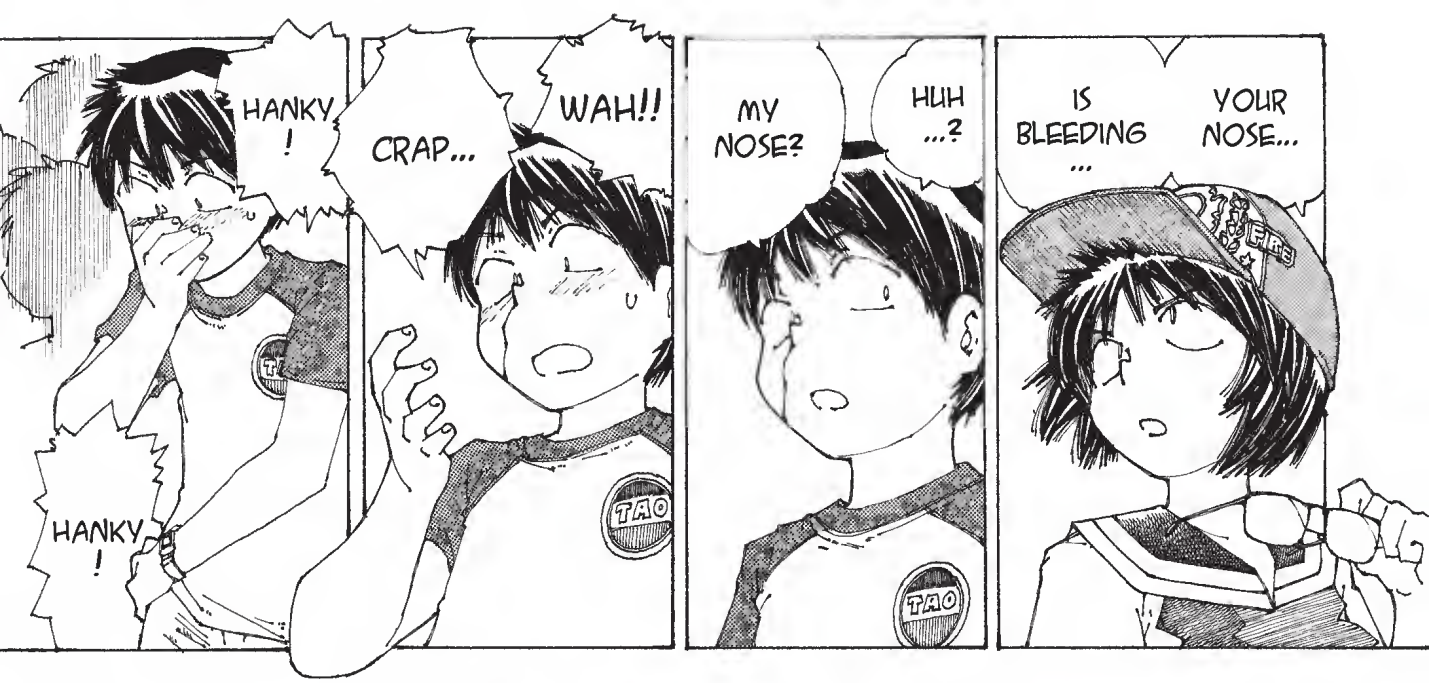
MAYBE IT'S SHAMELESS OF ME TO FEEL SO EXCITED...
YET, URABE IS RIGHT BESIDE ME.
LOVE

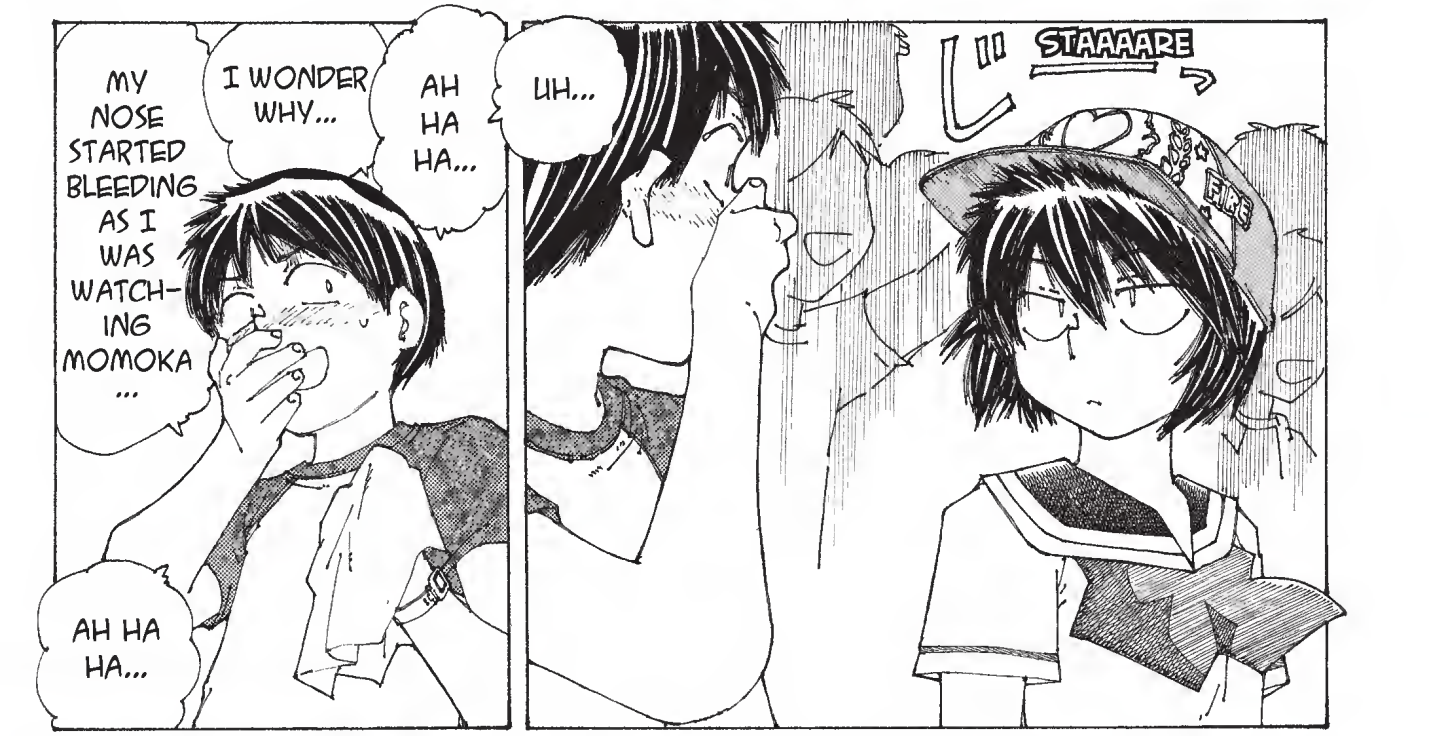
SOMEHOW, RIGHT NOW...

I FEEL...
REALLY EXCITED...
MAY THIS EXCITEMENT...
REACH YOU...
AH ...!
HM ...?!
FIRE

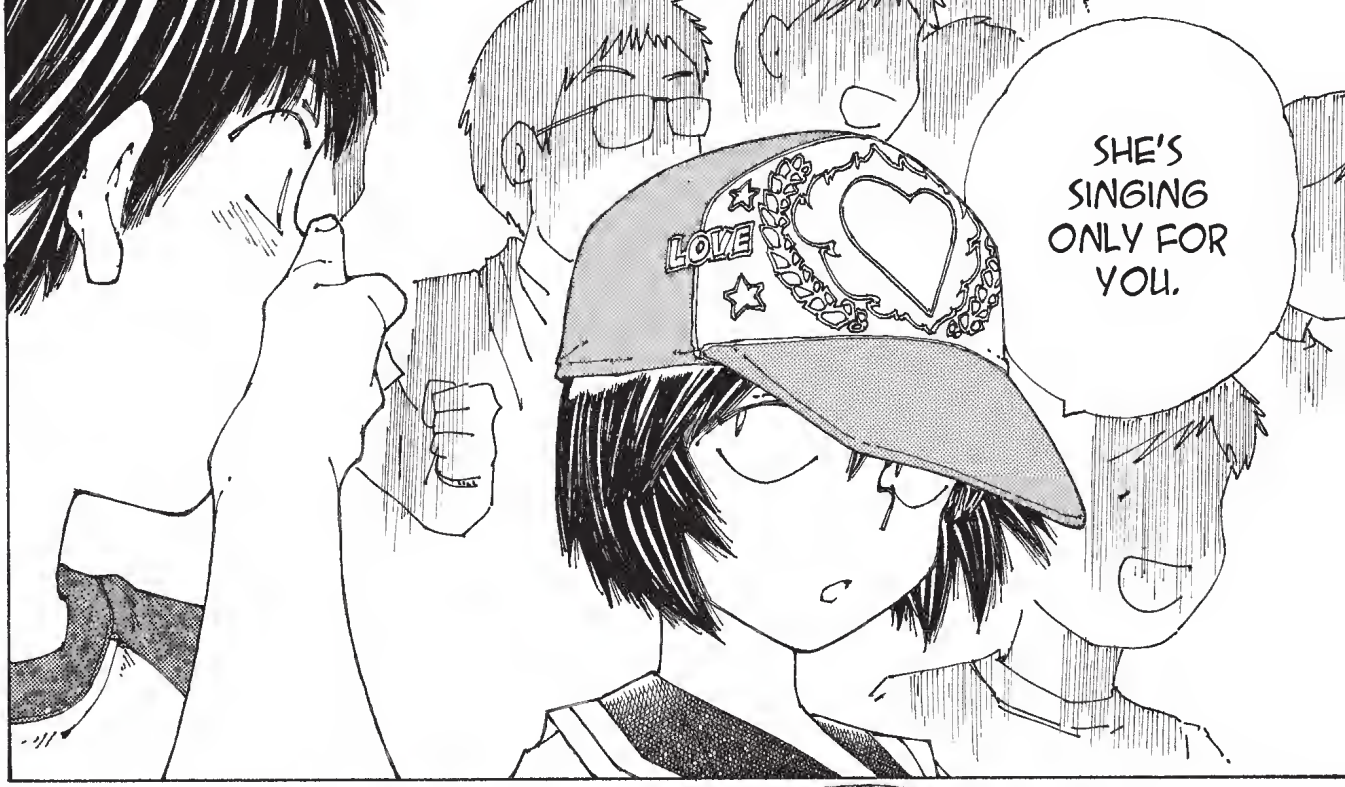

TSUBAKI!!
LOVE
LOVE
THAT POSE...
IT'S JUST LIKE...

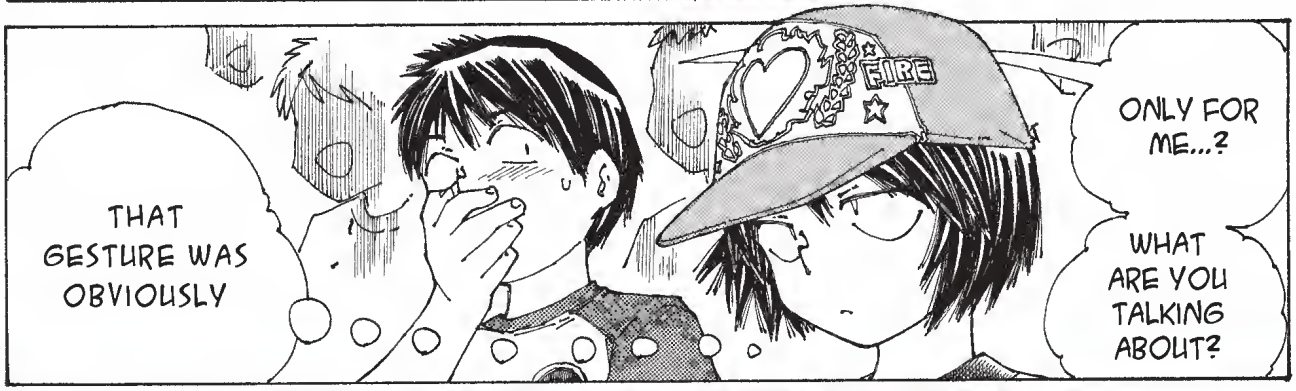
GIVES ME HER DROOL...
WHEN URABE
DRIP...
LOVE
TAO

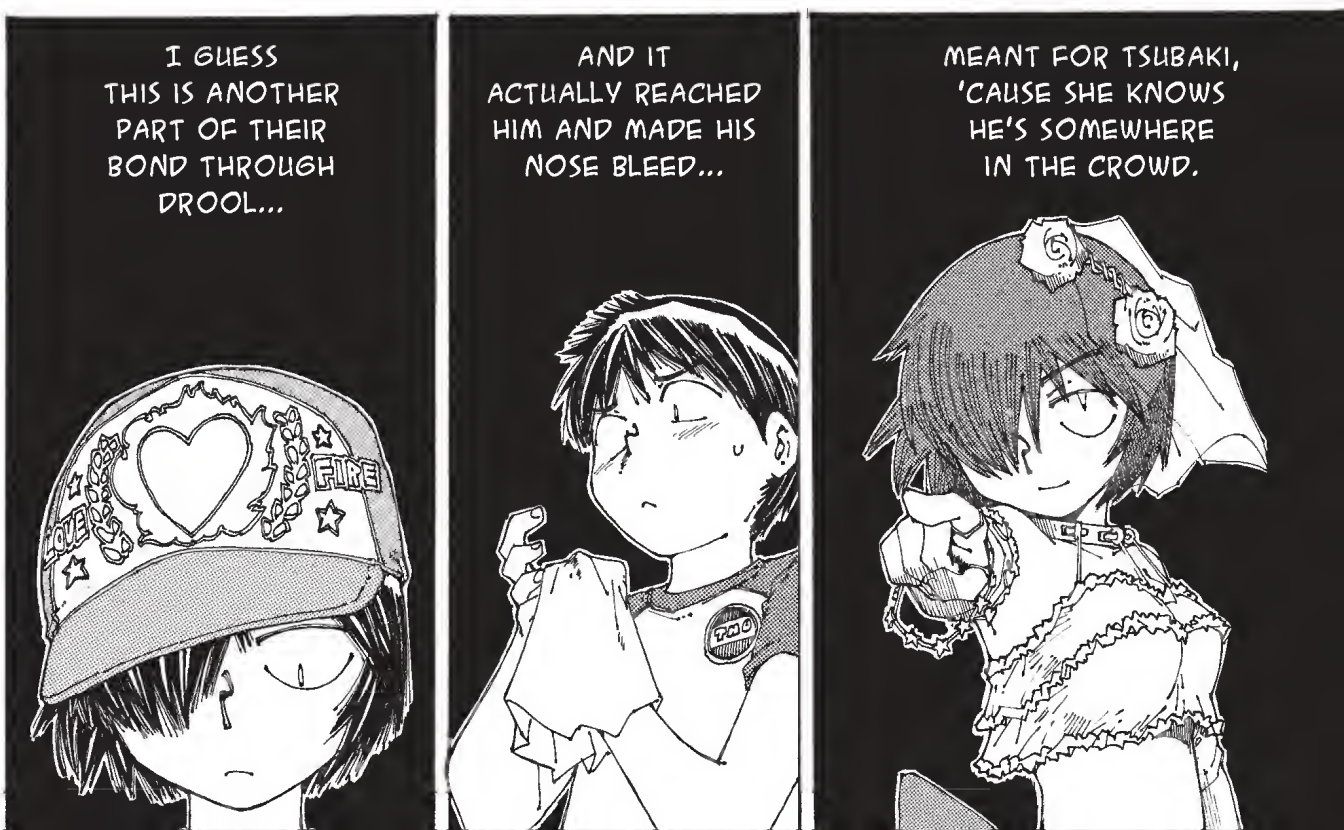

HANKY!
CRAP...
WAH!!
HANKY!
MY NOSE?
HUH ...?
IS BLEEDING ...
YOUR NOSE...

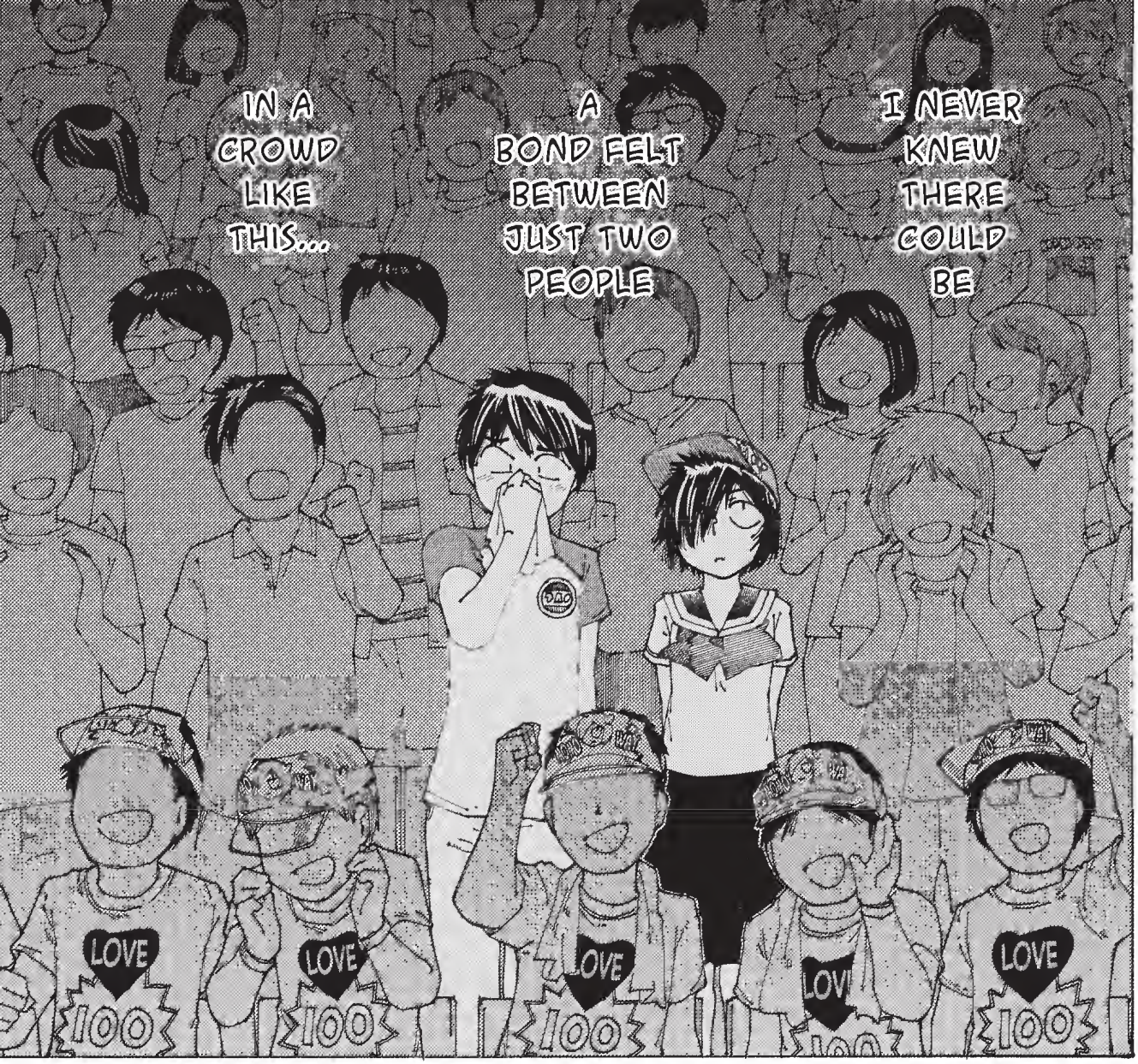

MY NOSE STARTED BLEEDING AS I WAS WATCH-ING MOMOKA ...
I WONDER WHY...
AH HA HA...
AH HA HA...
UH...
STAAAARE

BUT THE ONE SHE'S SINGING FOR IS...
SINGING ON THE STAGE...
SHE'S UP THERE NOW,

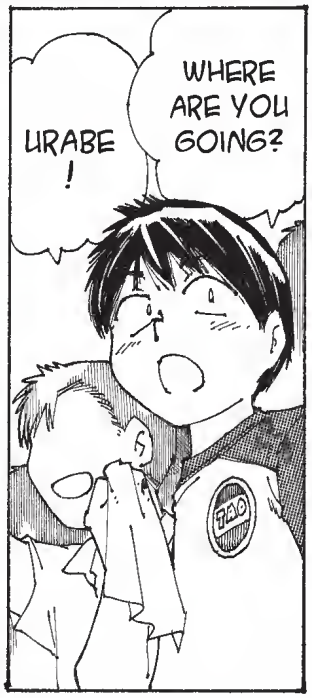

LOVE
SHE'S SINGING ONLY FOR YOU.


FIRE
THAT GESTURE WAS OBVIOUSLY
ONLY FOR ME...?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?


I GUESS THIS IS ANOTHER PART OF THEIR BOND THROUGH DROOL...
LOVE
FIRE
AND IT ACTUALLY REACHED HIM AND MADE HIS NOSE BLEED...
MEANT FOR TSUBAKI, 'CAUSE SHE KNOWS HE'S SOMEWHERE IN THE CROWD.


IN A CROWD LIKE THIS...
A BOND FELT BETWEEN JUST TWO PEOPLE
I NEVER KNEW THERE COULD BE
LOVE
100

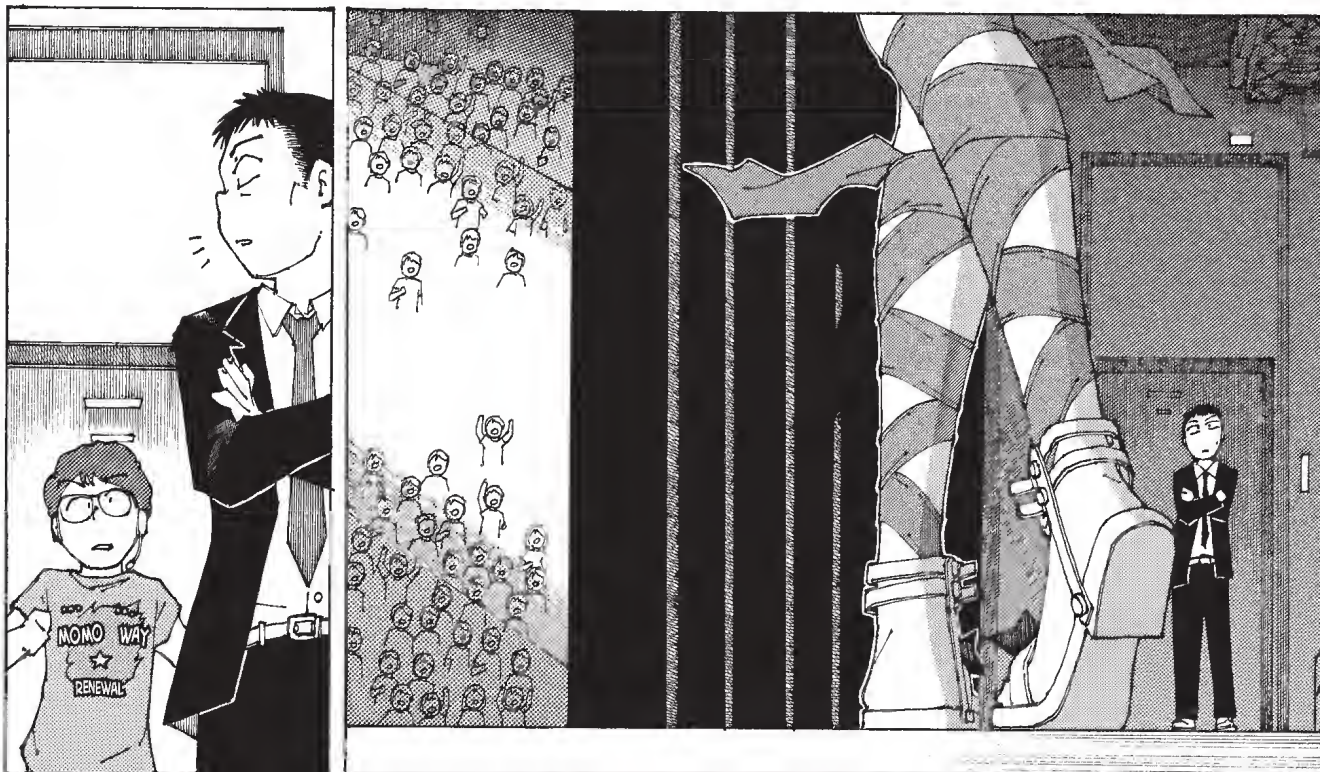
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!


URABE !
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

AH...

TSUBAKI !
HEY,

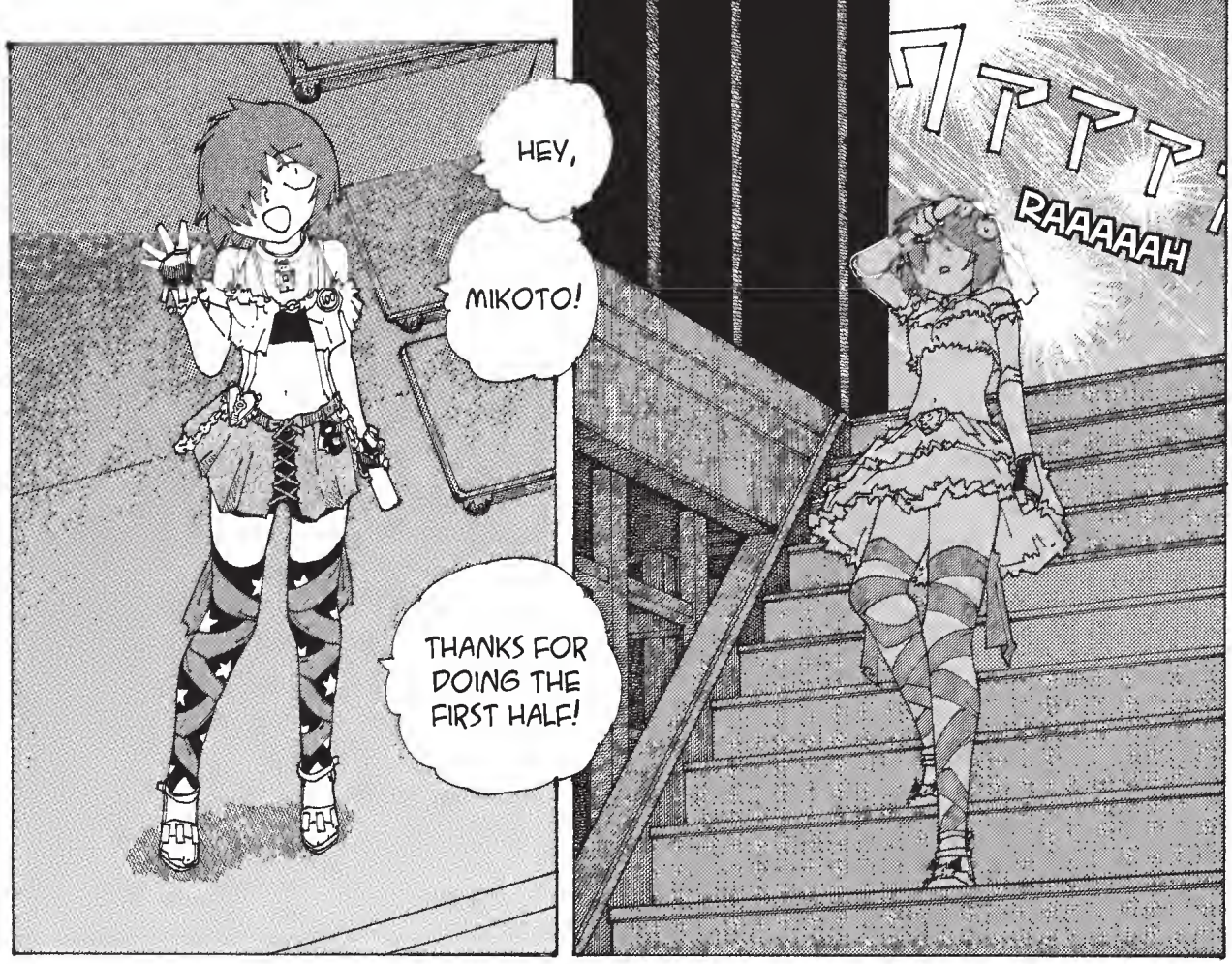
HUH?
ENVY YOU TWO!
I REALLY DO
FIRE

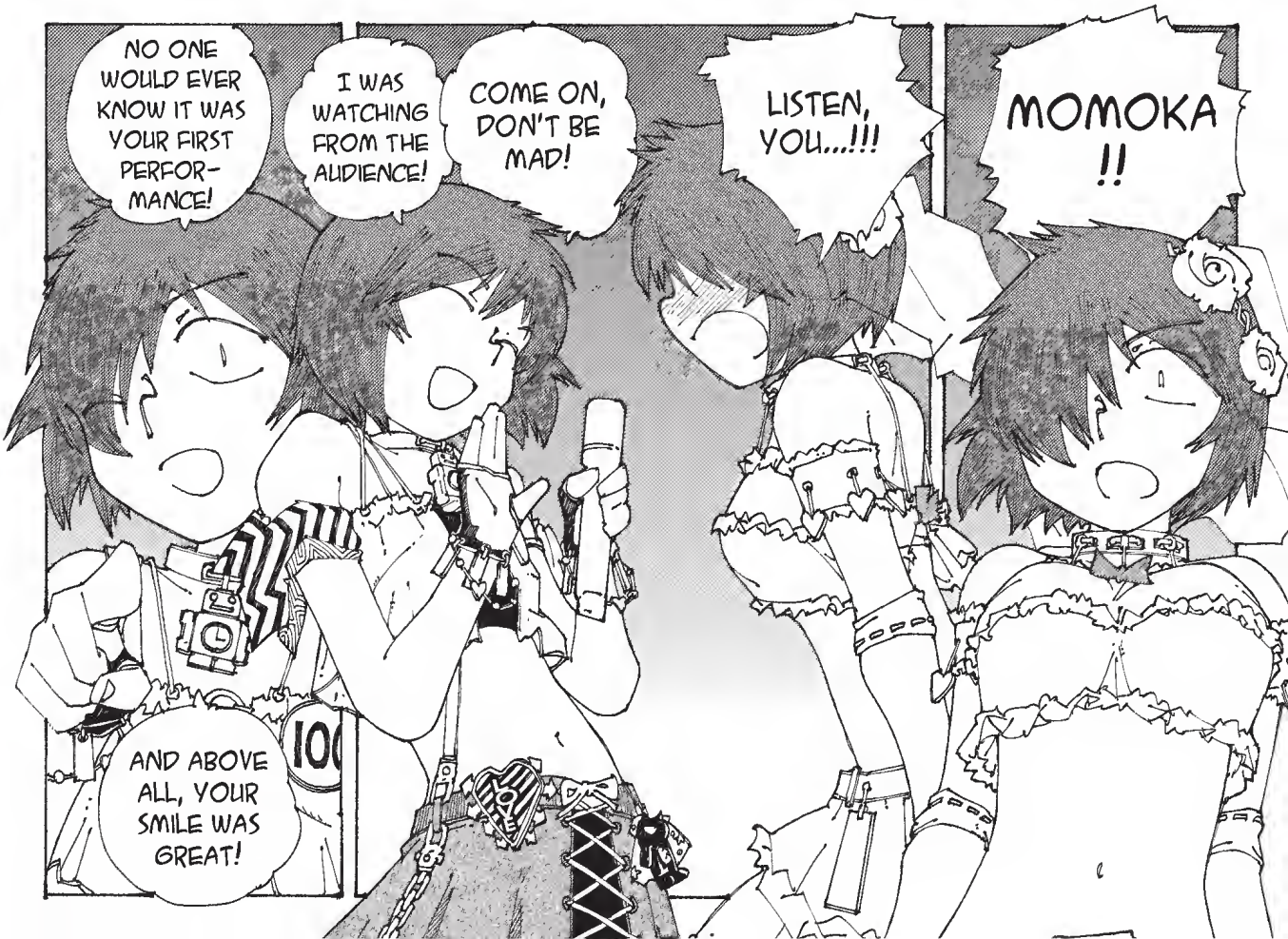

MOMO WAY
RENEWAL

!!!
KLOP
KLOP
KLOP
KLOP
AH...
IS IT TRUE THAT MOMOKA'S BACK?!
BAM

MR. TAKAGI ...
MOMOKA ...
BAM
I'M SORRY I CAUSED SO MUCH TROUBLE!!
WHIPP
!
IF YOU'RE REALLY MAD, YOU CAN JUST HIT ME!
I WON'T MAKE EXCUSES !
RENEWAL

MR. TAKAGI !!
GRAB
VIOLENCE ISN'T THE ANSWER!!
WHOA !!
AND TAKE OVER FOR URABE!
NOW HURRY UP AND GET CHANGED
YOU KNOW I COULD NEVER HIT KYUNE ♥ PRODUCTIONS' BELOVED IDOL!
THMP
'KAY ♥
GEEZ...
WHEW...


HEY,
MIKOTO!
THANKS FOR DOING THE FIRST HALF!
アアア
RAAAAAH


NO ONE WOULD EVER KNOW IT WAS YOUR FIRST PERFOR-MANCE!
I WAS WATCHING FROM THE AUDIENCE!
COME ON, DON'T BE MAD!
LISTEN, YOU...!!!
MOMOKA !!
AND ABOVE ALL, YOUR SMILE WAS GREAT!

W-WELL...
IT WAS A LITTLE EXCITING, AND I GUESS IT WAS FUN...
WASN'T YOUR SMILE PROOF THAT YOU WERE ACTUALLY ENJOYING YOURSELF?
POKE POKE

"LEAVE IT TO YOU"?
THIS WHOLE CONCERT WAS YOURS IN THE FIRST PLACE!

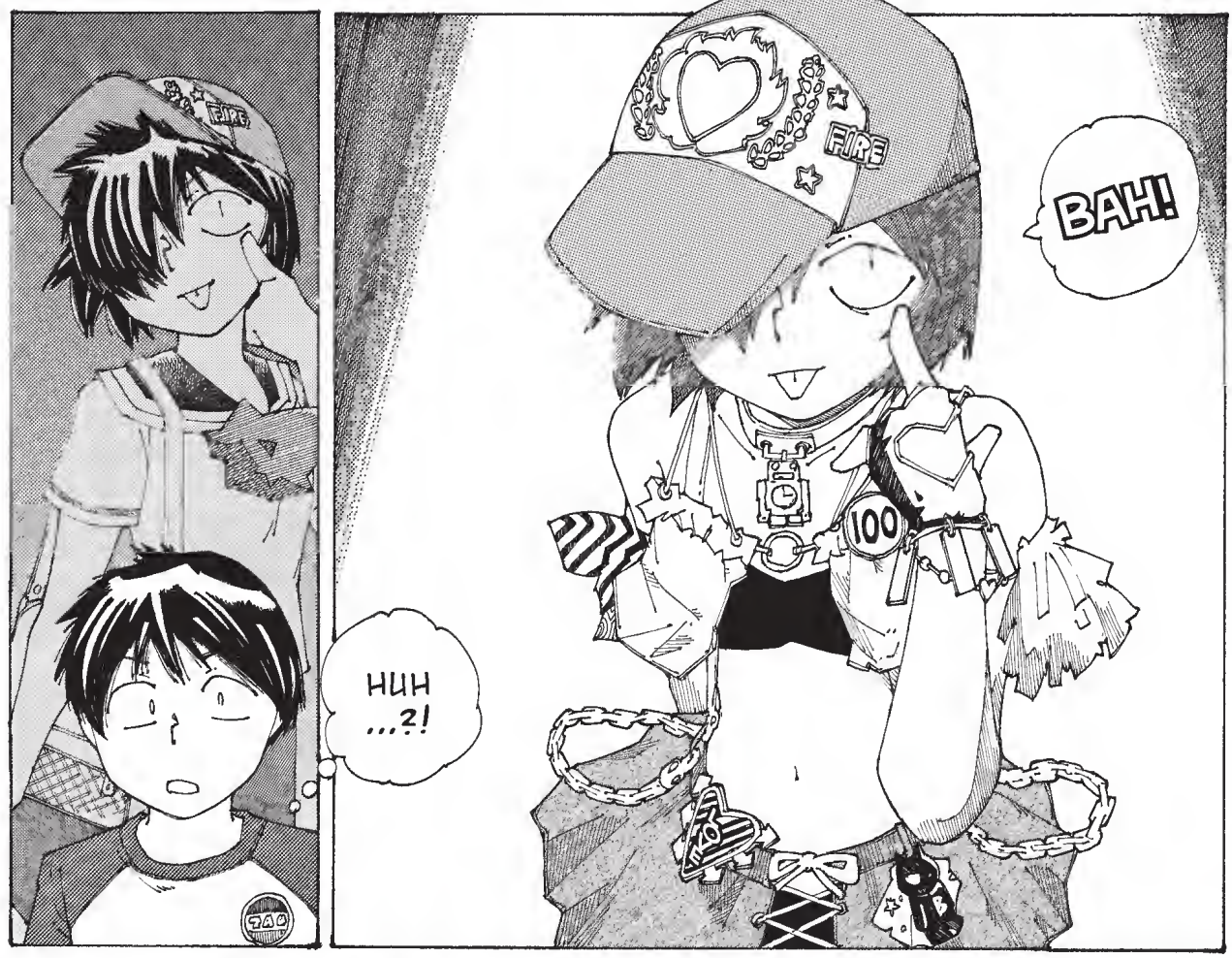
ANYWAY,
LEAVE THE SECOND HALF TO ME!

AH HA HA...
GOOD POINT!

OH, RIGHT!
MIKOTO!

TSUBAKI
IS IN SEAT 6-80.
RAAAAAH

NOW THEN,
TSUBAKI ...
HUH?
THAT CAP
LOOKS KINDA LIKE THE ONE URABE HAD ON ...
TUG
YOU MIGHT BE A LITTLE SHOCKED ...



END OF CHAPTER 47

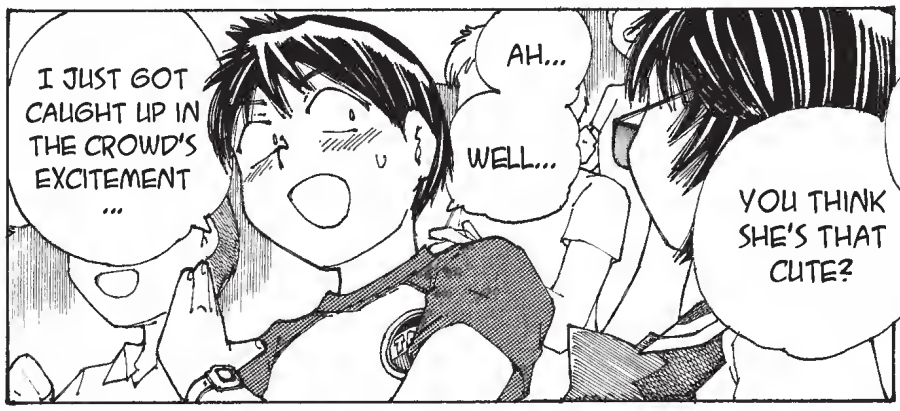
CHAPTER 48: MYSTERIOUS DUO

LOVE
RAISE
RAAAAAH
SEEING AN IDOL'S CONCERT...
THAT WAS MY FIRST TIME

I GUESS THEY'RE PRETTY FUN, AFTER ALL.

HYAKKI, YOU'RE SO CUTE!
BAM
HYAKKI! YOU ROCK!
RAAAAAH
MOMOKA! ♥
TWATWA
TEMPTED ♥
HYAKKI !!
...UTE?
HYAKKI! YOU'RE SO CUUUU—
JUMP
TAO
TAO

WHOA!
TAO
URABE!


I JUST GOT CAUGHT UP IN THE CROWD'S EXCITEMENT...
AH...
WELL...

BUT IT'S WHEN SHE'S ON STAGE...
SHE SAID SHE WANTED TO BE A NORMAL GIRL,

HUH?
WHAT'S WITH HER, ANYWAY...?

YOU THINK SHE'S THAT CUTE?
MOMOKA'S CONCERT.
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE ENJOYING

THAT SHE SEEMS THE HAPPIEST.
100
100

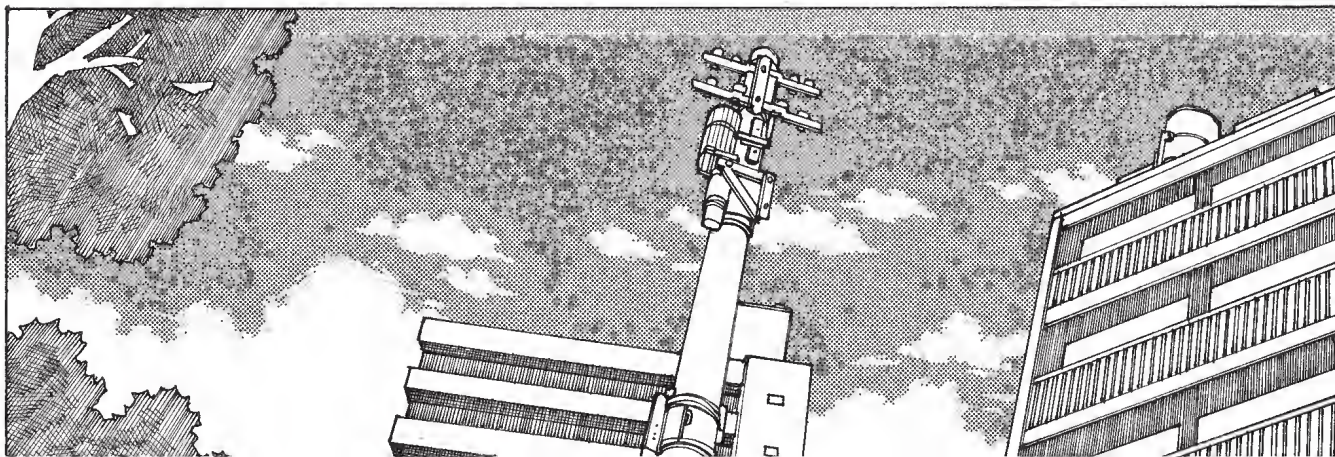
アアアアアア
RAAAAAH

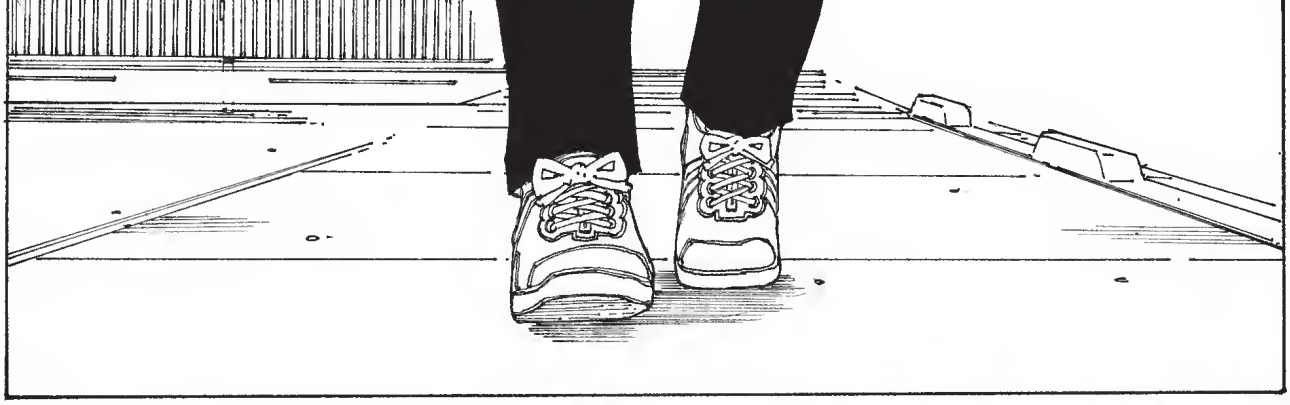
WHAT DID YOU THINK,
TSUBAKI?
HUH?
OF MOMOKA IMAI'S CONCERT...
OH...
YEAH!
WELL, IT WAS MY FIRST TIME SEEING AN IDOL'S CONCERT, AND...
WELL, UHM...
...
YOU CAN BE HONEST.
WELL... I GUESS...
HONESTLY, IT WAS PRETTY FUN...
TAO

BUT...
THE FIRST HALF, WITH THE WHITE COSTUME,
AND THE SECOND HALF,
AFTER SHE CHANGED, SEEMED VERY DIFFERENT...
LOOKING AT IT PURELY AS A CONCERT,
I THOUGHT THE SECOND HALF WAS MORE FUN...
BUT THE FIRST HALF
FELT SO...
VIVID, SOMEHOW ...
VIVID...?
YEAH...
IT WAS ALMOST LIKE
MOMOKA WAS...
WHAT?
LIKE SHE WAS...
UH,
WELL...
I DON'T REALLY KNOW HOW TO PUT IT IN WORDS...
AH HA HA HA...
IT WAS ALMOST LIKE ...

URABE HERSELF WAS SINGING AND DANCING.
BUT IT'D BE KINDA RUDE
TO TELL URABE THAT...

EPTON





HUH ?
!
24MART
24mart
24mart

WEEKLY TV CITY
WEEKLY TV CITY
ISN'T THAT URABE ...?
WEEKLY TV CITY
THE GIRL STANDING THERE READING ...

TSUBAKI!
I THOUGHT YOU'D COME BY HERE, SO I WAITED FOR YOU!
HUH?
VREEEN
THIS CONVENIENCE STORE WAS WHERE
WE FIRST MET, RIGHT?
HUH?
THE DAYS I SPENT WITH YOU
REALLY MADE ME FEEL LIKE I WAS A NORMAL GIRL AGAIN.
I HAD A LOT OF FUN.
SO, TODAY,
I WANTED TO THANK YOU...

!
THAT'S ...
TSUBAKI AND...
YES...
SAF
THANK ME?
MOMOKA ?!

URABE...
WAIT...
THANK YOU,
WHA—
TSUBAKI...
MOMOKA ...?!
ZWOO
OSH
ZASSH
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING,

TWIRL
TWIRL
TWIRL

ZWOOM
U...
URABE!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, OUT OF NOWHERE?!
I MEAN, I'M HAPPY, BUT...
WAIT...

KLO
NK
AH...
THUP THUP
THUP THUP
URABE !!
U...
KA
THUD
GRAB
URA—
ARE YOU OKAY?
ARE...

HUH?
WHA?
I'D RATHER KISS HIM MYSELF
THAN LET YOU KISS HIM FIRST!!
TWO...
TWO URABES?!
OWWW!
MIKOTO?!
HOW DARE YOU?!
KACHINK
YOU LITTLE...
THUPP

ZWOOSH
BAA
SSH
SHIK
AH...
DUCK

TSUBAKI !
WHUDD
OH...
OOPS...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
IT'S YOUR FAULT FOR
INTER-RUPTING OUR KISS !!
HUH ...?
YOU AND TSUBAKI...
HAVEN'T KISSED AT ALL?
NOT EVEN
ONCE.
OF COURSE I'M GOING TO INTERRUPT !!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH ONE KISS?!
YOU TWO ARE DATING, SO YOU MUST'VE DONE IT LOTS OF TIMES!!
I'M HIS GIRLFRIEND !!
WE HAVEN'T KISSED YET!

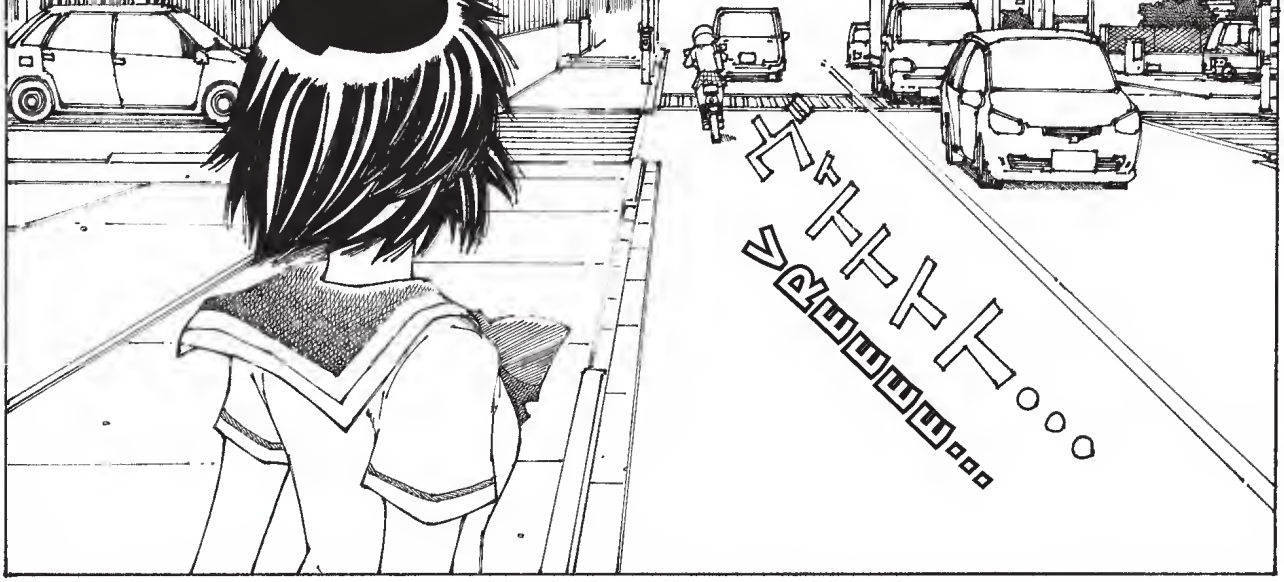
I GUESS THAT WOULD'VE BEEN BAD, THEN...
EH HEH HEH HEH...
OH,
I SEE.
WE DO THINGS AT OUR OWN PACE!
MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!!
SHOVE
SHOVE
HURRY UP AND KISS HIM!
DON'T BUTT IN JUST BECAUSE YOU LOOK LIKE ME!!
YOU'RE A COUPLE, AFTER ALL!
DID TSUBAKI SAY ANYTHING TO YOU
ABOUT THAT CONCERT?
HUH?
I HAD A LOT OF FUN WHILE I WAS TAKING YOUR PLACE,
BEING TSUBAKI'S GIRL-FRIEND.
IT BOTHERS ME BECAUSE WE LOOK ALIKE!

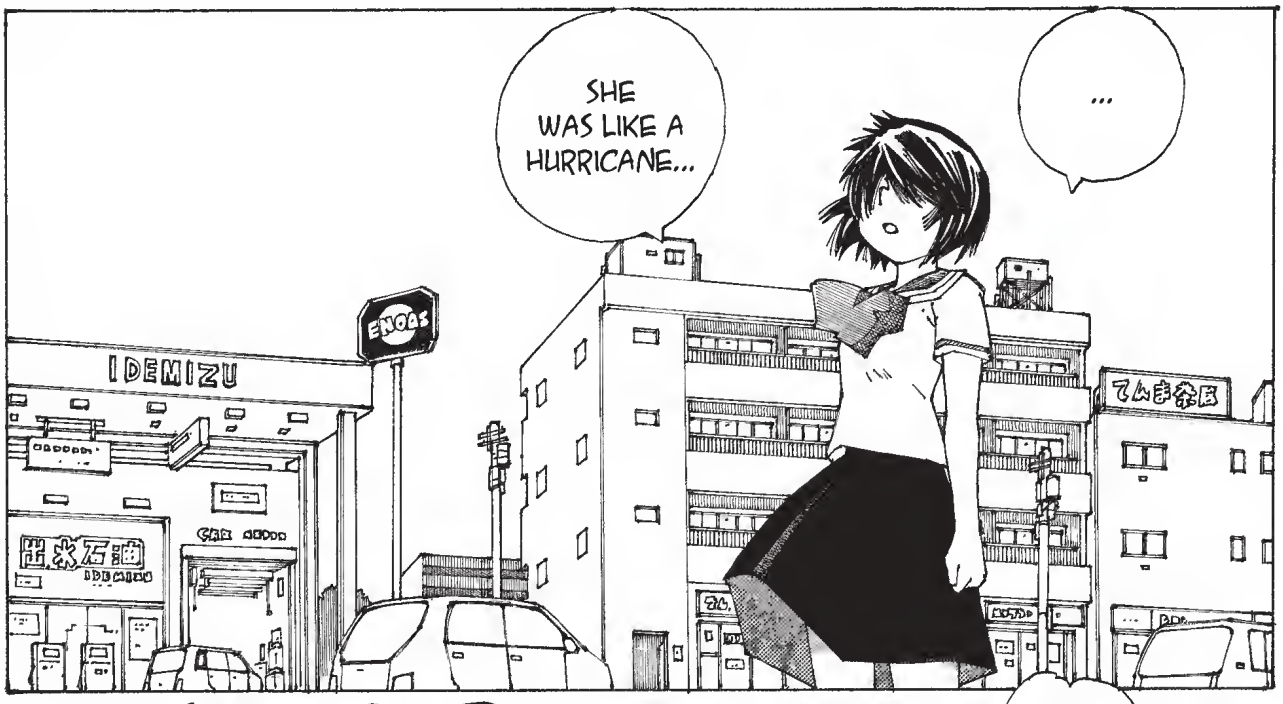
YES.
HE DID.
HE SAID THAT...
THE SECOND HALF, YOUR PART, WAS BETTER.
AND DID HE
SAY ANYTHING ABOUT
YOUR HALF?
HUH?
HE SAID
IT FELT MORE "VIVID" ...
...
SO AS AN IDOL, I WIN,
BUT AS A GIRLFRIEND,
YOU WIN
BY A LONG SHOT...

SHWFF
TSUBAKI ...
"MORE VIVID"
MEANS THAT
HAD A VAGUE HUNCH
THAT IT WAS YOU IN THE FIRST HALF.
AFTER ALL...
LOVE 100
THUP
HE DID?
HUH?
OF COURSE HE DID!

AS HE WATCHED YOU UP THERE SINGING,
TSUBAKI
GOT A NOSEBLEED.
OH...
THAT POSE ...
YOU DID THAT WITH YOUR "USUAL ROUTINE" IN MIND, RIGHT?
AS AN IDOL, I WON.
AS A GIRLFRIEND, YOU WON.
NO MATTER HOW SIMILAR WE LOOK, YOU CAN'T BE ME,
AND I CAN'T BE YOU.
THAT WAS THE LAST THING I WANTED TO KNOW FOR SURE.

I'M GOING TO WORK HARD AS AN IDOL WITH NO BOYFRIEND FOR A WHILE ...
BUT JUST YOU WATCH!
SKREEEEEE
VROOM
I'LL GET MYSELF AN AWESOME BOYFRIEND !
BUT ONE DAY,
LOVE 100
VROOOOOOM
WAIT ...
HEY ...
SEE YA!!
MOMOKA!


ガヤガヤ…
ワイワイワイ…

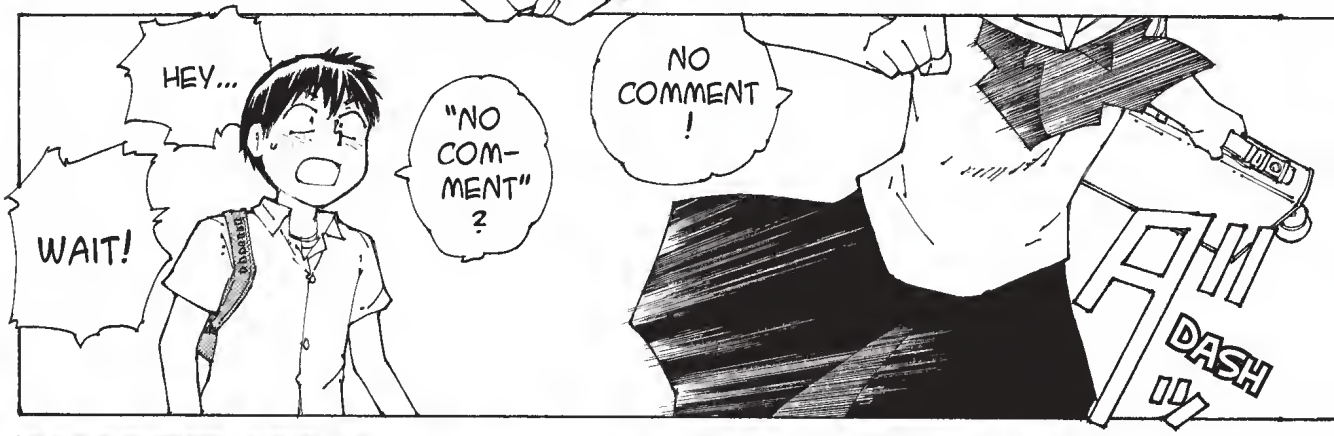

SHE WAS LIKE A HURRICANE...
...
IDEMIZU
ENEOS
てんま荘

AH!!
TSUBAKI ?
ARE YOU OKAY,
OW OW OW...

NO WAY!
I KNOW I SAW YOU BOTH!!
WERE YOU HALLUCINATING?
URABE!!
THERE WERE... TWO OF YOU JUST NOW, RIGHT?!
BEFORE I GOT KICKED...
A GIRL WHO LOOKS JUST LIKE YOU HAD TAKEN YOUR PLACE, RIGHT?
BUT AFTER SEEING TWO OF YOU, I'M SURE OF IT!
THESE PAST FEW DAYS, I KEPT THINKING THAT SOMETHING SEEMED OFF!!
THAT YOU DIDN'T SEEM LIKE YOUR USUAL SELF...
WAS THAT OTHER URABE
DO YOU KNOW SOME-THING?
URABE!
MOMOKA IMAI?!
MO-MOKA IMAI, MAYBE...
THE IDOL,
THE...
A GIRL WHO LOOKS JUST LIKE ME...?
WHO?

DOESN'T MATTER...
THAT REALLY
YES, YOU ARE!
Y...
IS LOOK AT ME, THE ONE IN FRONT OF YOU NOW.
THEN
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO
TSUBAKI,
I'M
YOUR GIRLFRIEND, RIGHT?
HUH?
IS A BOY'S...
A GIRL-FRIEND

ONE AND ONLY IDOL.



END OF CHAPTER 48

EXTRA STORY: IDOL ARC EPILOGUE

MYSTERIOUS IDOL M

MOMOKA PLANS TO CONCENTRATE ONLY ON BEING AN IDOL FOR NOW...?!

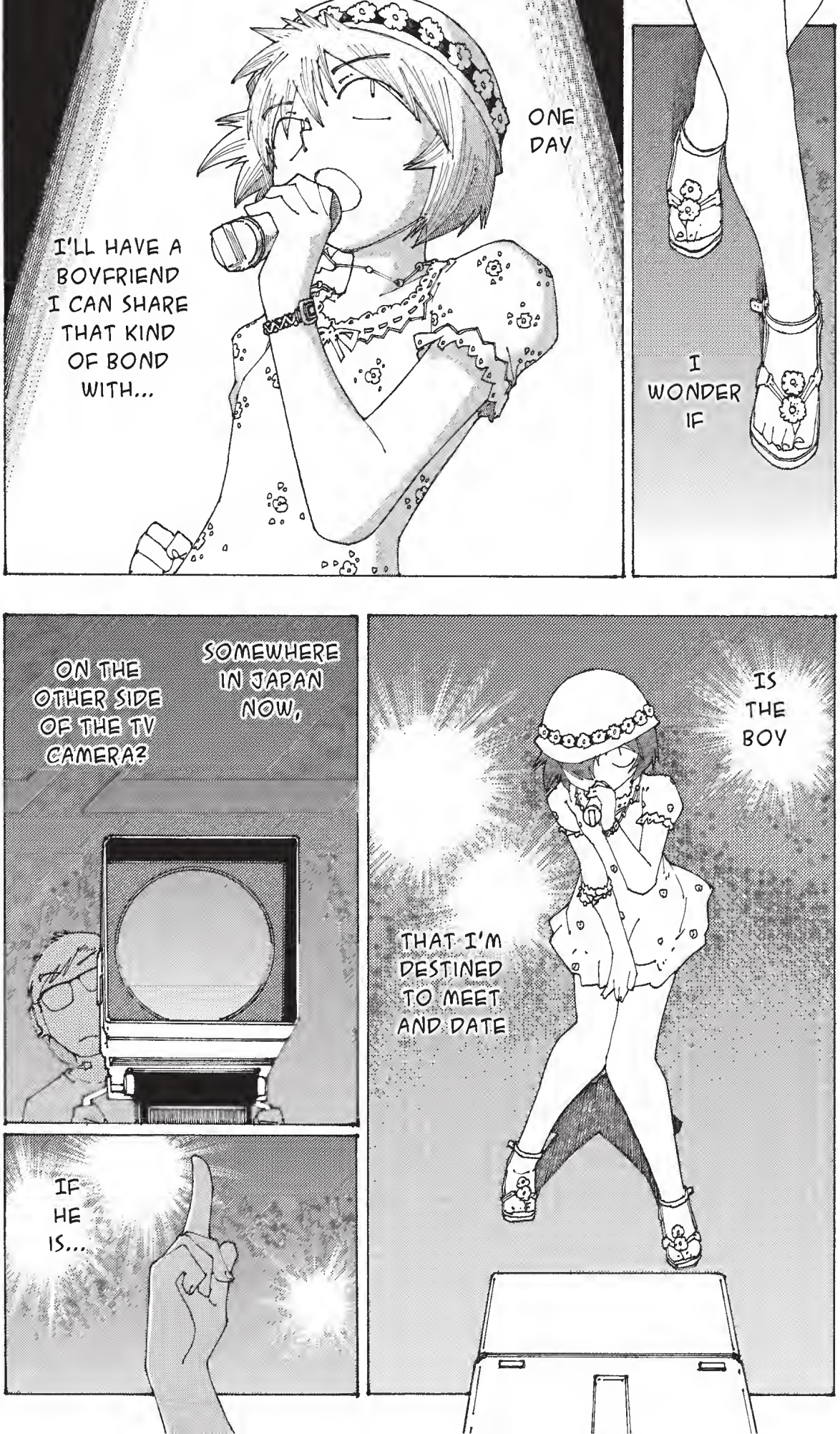
The Latest from the Author

Riichi Ueshiba

RECENTLY, I'VE BEEN LISTENING TO A COLLECTION OF THEME SONGS FROM NHK TAIGA DRAMAS WHILE I WORK. THE HISTORICAL SONGS THAT I PARTICULARLY LIKE ARE "KUNITORI MONOGATARI" AND "KASHIN" BY HIKARU HAYASHI. BOTH OF THE DRAMAS HAPPENED TO BE BASED ON STORIES BY RYOTARO SHIBA.

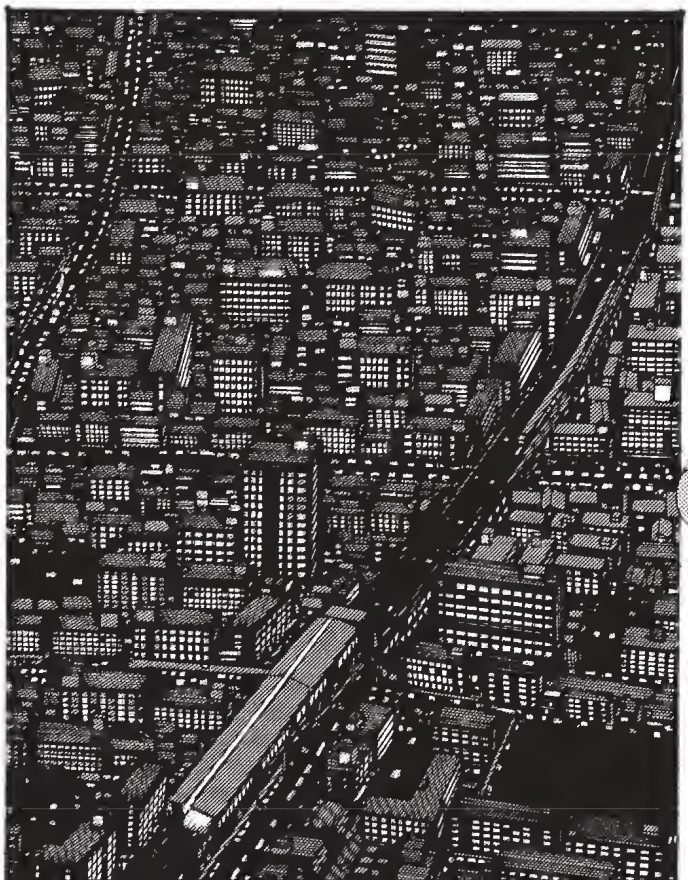
MUSIC TELEVISION
MUSIC TELEVISION
アアアア

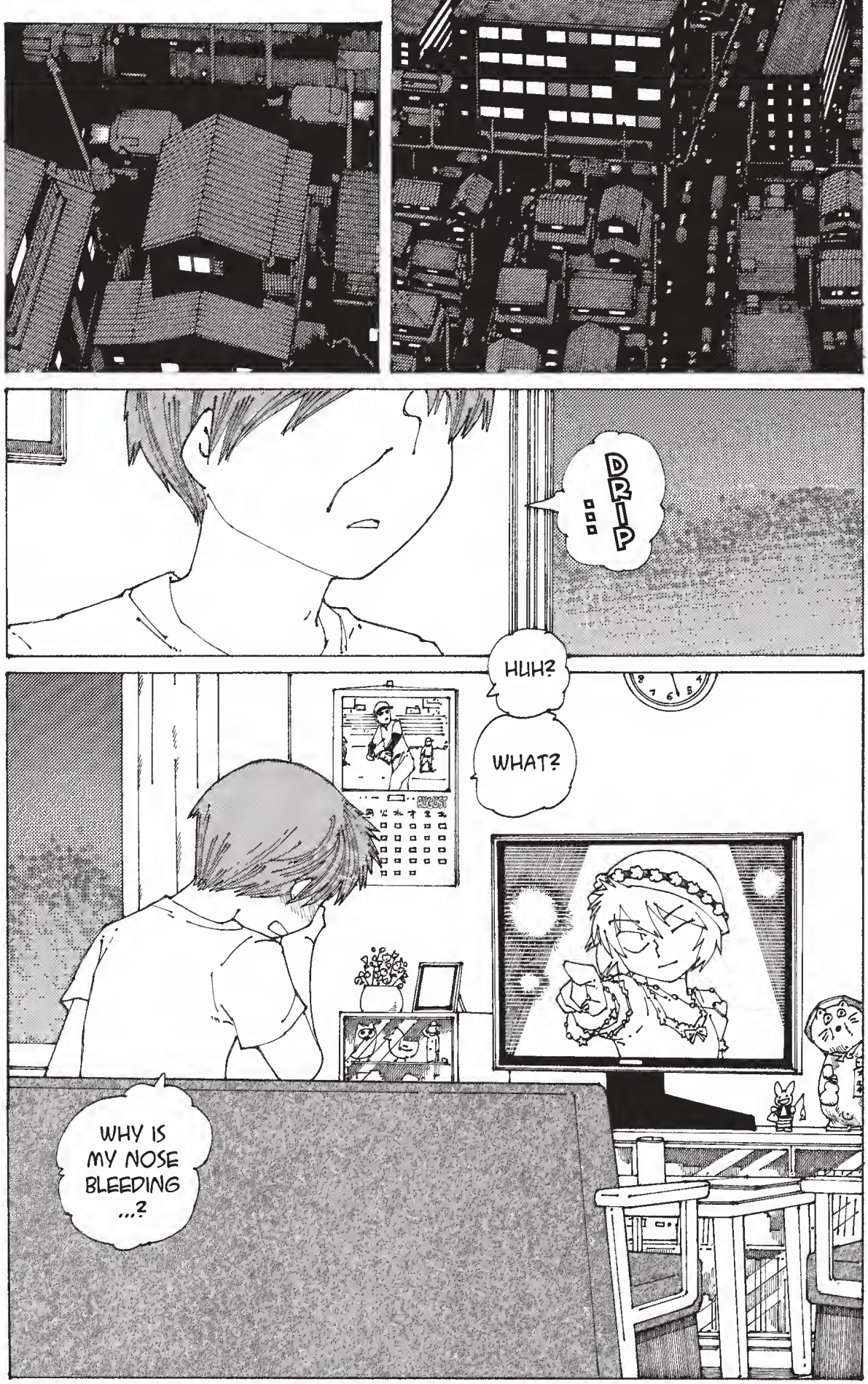
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...
WHEN SHE DID THAT POSE TO MIMIC GIVING HIM HER DROOL,
THAT WAS WHEN TSUBAKI'S NOSE BLED.
SO THAT'S THE BOND THEY HAVE THROUGH DROOL...


ONE DAY
I'LL HAVE A BOYFRIEND I CAN SHARE THAT KIND OF BOND WITH...
I WONDER IF
IS THE BOY
THAT I'M DESTINED TO MEET AND DATE
SOMEWHERE IN JAPAN NOW,
ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE TV CAMERA?
IF HE IS...

REACH HIM!

THEN MAY MY FEELINGS ...

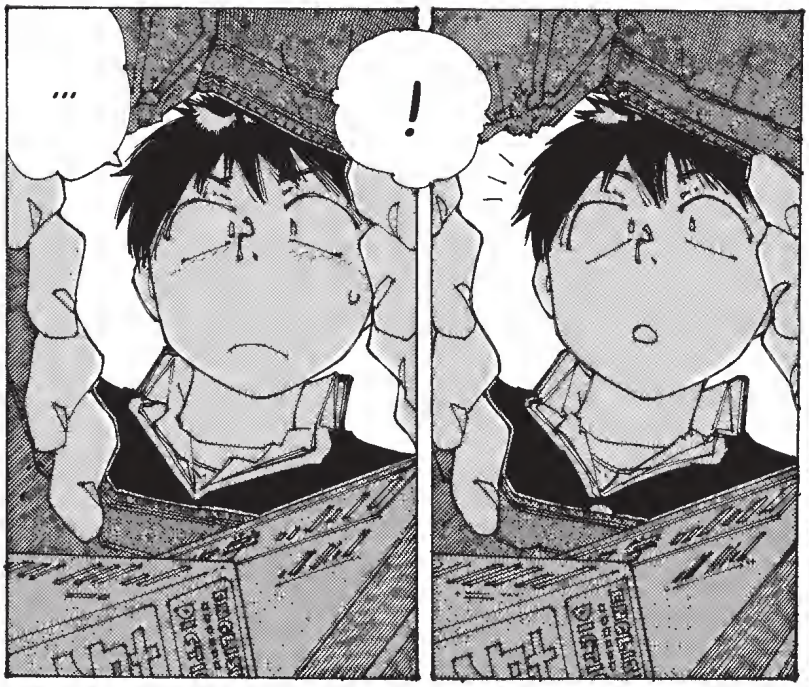




A bond connects you, no matter where you are.

CHAPTER 49: MYSTERIOUS CARNIVORE GIRL (PART 1)

HUH?
OKAY!
I'M GONNA BORROW YOUR DICTIONARY!
UENO!
JUST MEET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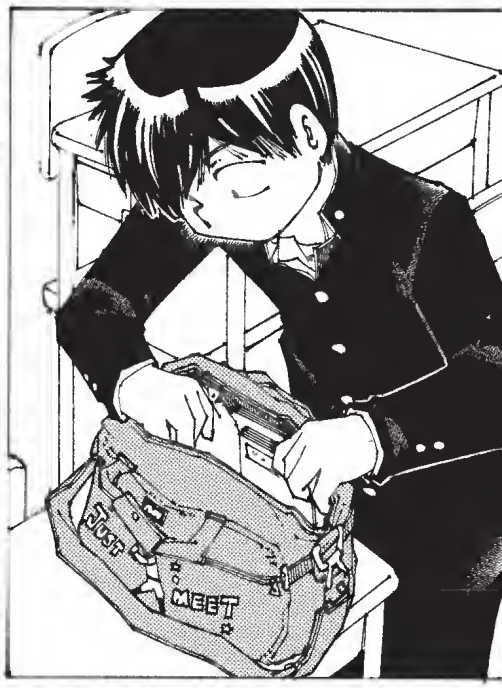
!


JUST MEET

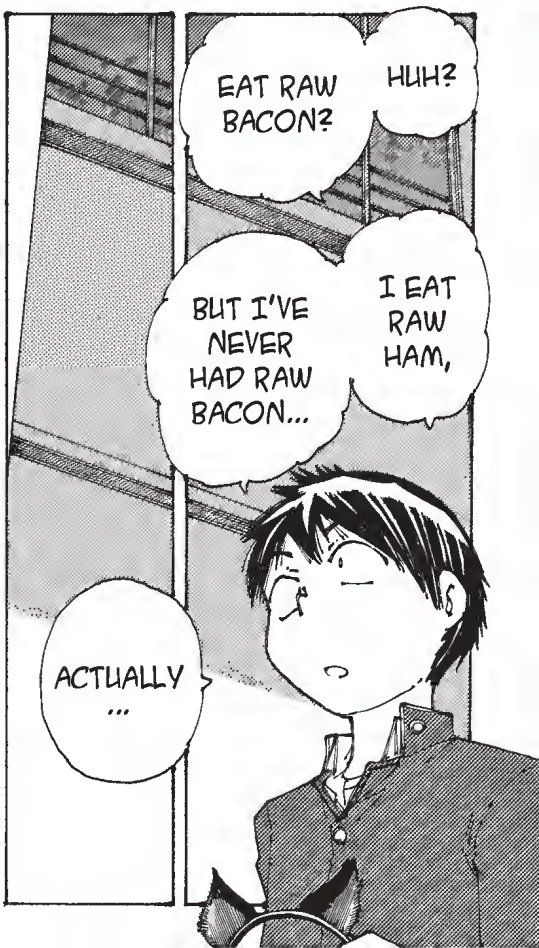
UENO UENO!!
HM?
WHAT?
TAP TAP
WHAT IS IT?
HEY!
HUH?
TUG
TUG
WHEN I LOOKED IN YOUR BAG TO BORROW YOUR DICTIONARY...
WELL,
UHM...
WHY'D YOU DRAG ME OUT HERE?
WHAT'S GOING ON, TSUBAKI?!
TUST

I FOUND THESE INSIDE.
AH...!
THESE ARE WHAT THEY CALL "CAT EARS," RIGHT?
WHY DO YOU HAVE THESE?
DON'T TELL ME...
BYONG BYONG
YOU'RE NOT PUTTING THESE ON YOUR GIRLFRIEND, OKA, ARE YOU?
JOLT
WELL, ARE YOU?
TELL ME!

NO, WELL ...
THAT'S A SECRET ♥ BETWEEN ME AND HER, SO ...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "SECRET ♥" ?!
DON'T PLAY DUMB!
DO YOU MAKE OKA WEAR THESE?!
HUH ?!
TELL ME! COME ON!!
GRIK GRIK GRIK GRIK GRIK GRIK
ギリギリギリギリギリギリ
BA—
BACON ...
HUH?
IT STARTED WITH BACON?
THE HECK DOES THAT MEAN ?
HAAK KOFF
IT...
EH?
WHAT ?
IT STARTED WITH BACON.
DO YOU EAT BACON?
HUH?

DO YOU EVER EAT IT RAW?
MARU HAM
ECONOMY-SIZED BACON
SO, OF COURSE, I EAT IT...
MY SISTER USES IT IN FRIED RICE A LOT,
BACON AND EGGS?
YOU MEAN BACON LIKE ...

EXACTLY !!
CAN YOU EVEN EAT BACON RAW?
WHIP


HUH?
EAT RAW BACON?
I EAT RAW HAM,
BUT I'VE NEVER HAD RAW BACON...
ACTUALLY ...

THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT AT FIRST, TOO!
I'M LOST HERE...
HUH ?

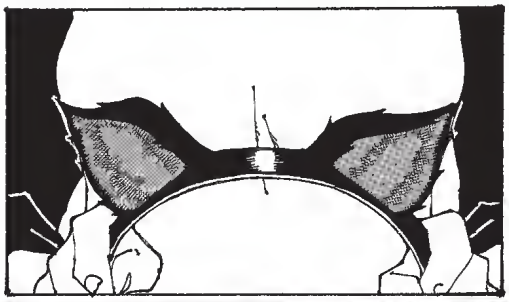
WELL,
A WHILE AGO,
WHILE WE WERE STUDYING ...
I THINK I TOLD YOU BEFORE
THAT OKA AND I STUDY TOGETHER AT HER HOUSE BEFORE TESTS SOMETIMES.
HUH?
YEAH,
YOU TOLD ME.
UENO,
ARE YOU HUNGRY?
I'LL BRING IN SOME LUNCH.
AH,
THANKS!
SO OKA MADE ME SOME TOAST AND A SALAD...

AND WHILE I WAS EATING IT,
SHE ...
DELICIOUS BACON
RIP

HUH?
YOU EAT BACON RAW?
OKA...
HM?
YES, I DO.
DELICIOUS BACON

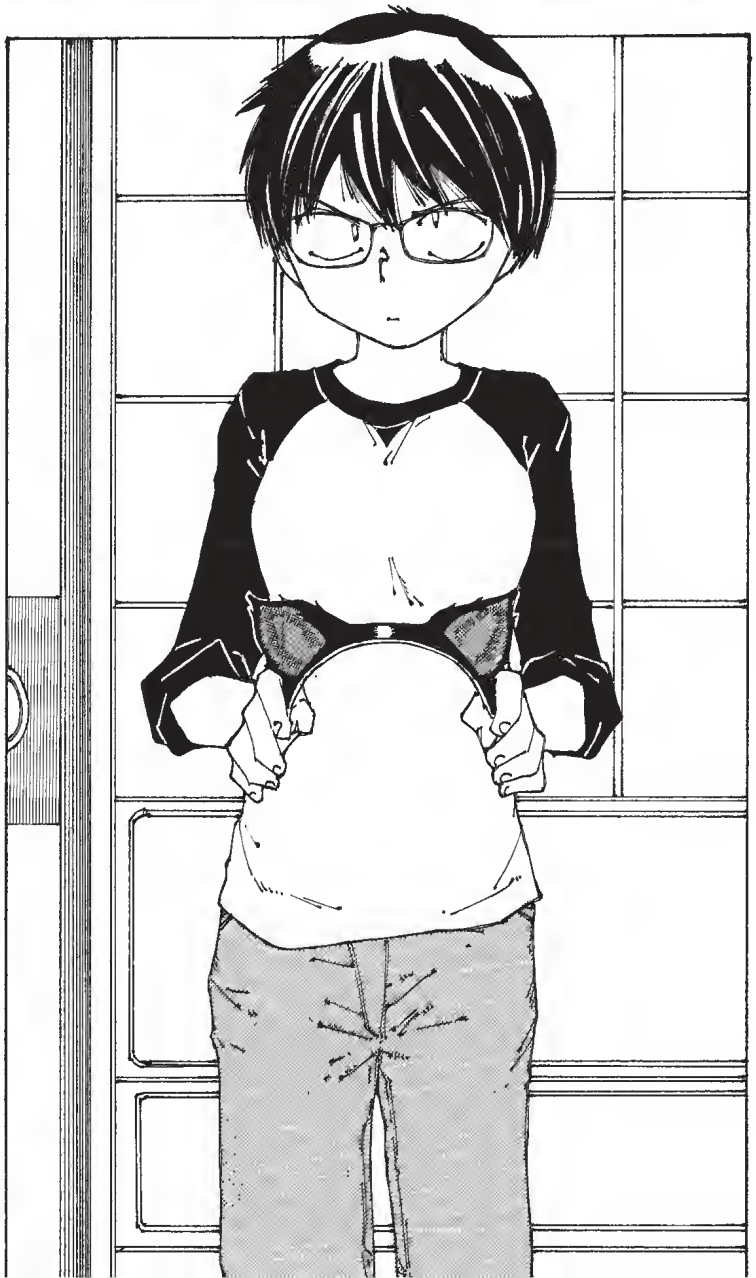
IT SAYS IT CAN BE EATEN UNCOOKED!
LOOK, RIGHT HERE!
DELICIOUS BACON
THIS PRODUCT CAN BE EATEN UNCOOKED AFTER OPENING PACKAGE...
NOT AT ALL!
USUALLY USED FOR STUFF LIKE BACON AND EGGS OR STIR-FRIED VEGGIES?
ISN'T BACON
IT SEEMS WEIRD TO EAT IT RAW.
I'VE ALWAYS EATEN IT THIS WAY!
IT'S NOT WEIRD!
IT'S LIKE YOU'RE EATING RAW MEAT.
IT JUST SEEMS SO WEIRD!
I'M USED TO COOKING IT FIRST.
WHAP
LIKE AN ANIMAL.
SNAP
カチ
DELICIOUS BACON
OKA, YOU'RE KINDA...

THMP
A''
DID I GO TOO FAR?
OOPS...
THUP
A



CAT EARS?
HUH?
WHAT IS THAT?

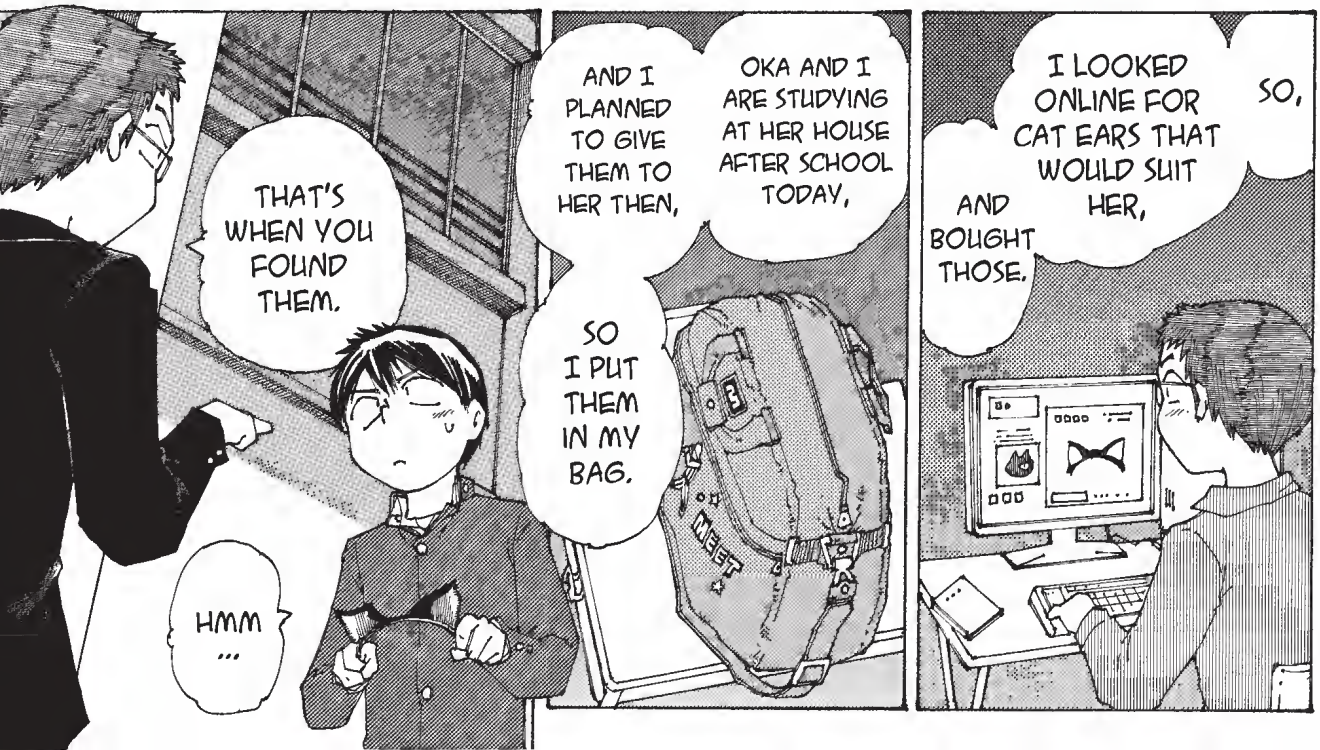
MY COUSIN BROUGHT THEM
TO OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY LAST YEAR.

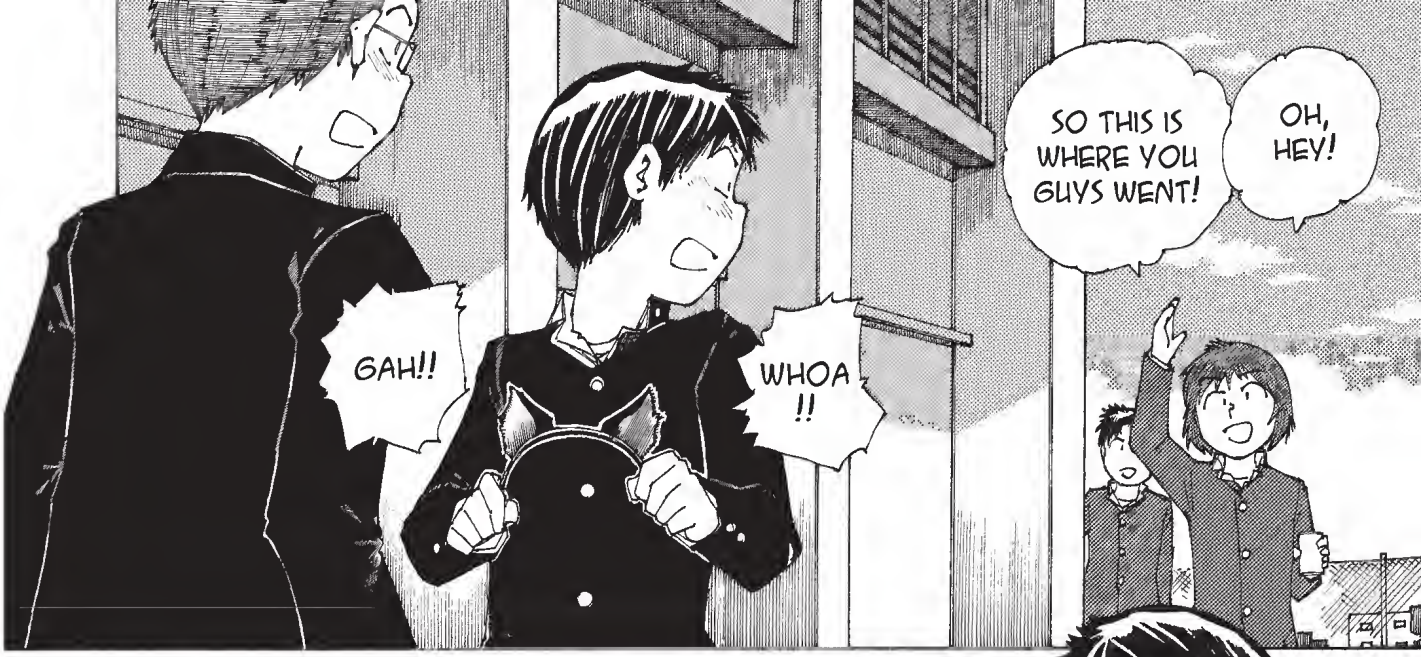


キュッ
SNUG
NOM
DELICIOUS BACON
NOW IT DOESN'T LOOK WEIRD, RIGHT?
SINCE I'M AN ANIMAL.
DELICIOUS BACON

BACON
DELICIOUS BACON
BACON
MEOW.
DELICIOUS BACON

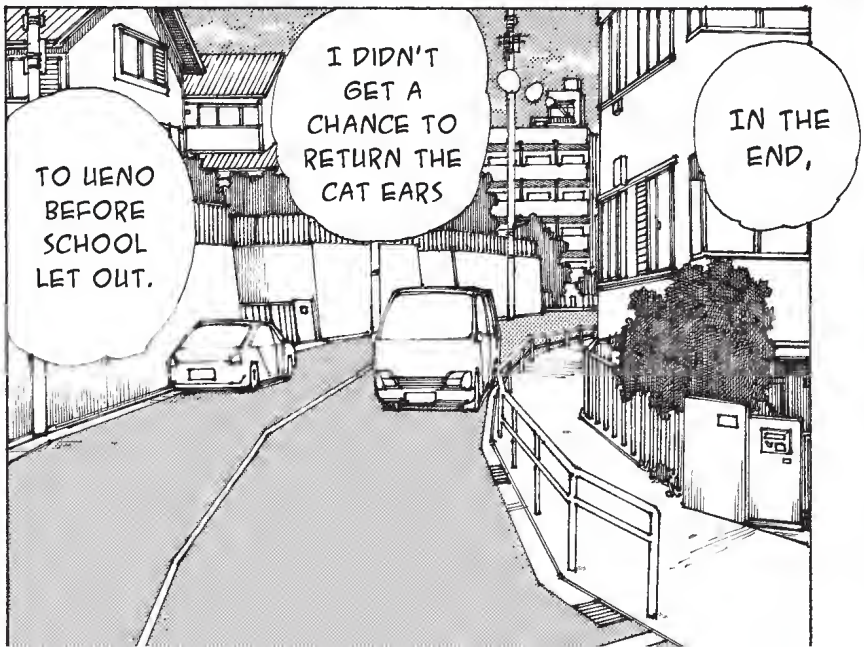
AND SO,
EVER SINCE THEN,
WE'VE HAD A RULE BETWEEN THE TWO OF US
THAT SHE WEARS CAT EARS WHEN SHE EATS RAW BACON.
WHAT KIND OF RULE IS THAT?!
THAT MAKES NO SENSE!
IT'S FREAKY !!
SHUT UP!!
FLAIL
FLAIL
IT... IT JUST LOOKS GOOD WHEN SHE WEARS THEM WHILE SHE'S EATING RAW BACON!


SO, I LOOKED ONLINE FOR CAT EARS THAT WOULD SUIT HER, AND BOUGHT THOSE.
OKA AND I ARE STUDYING AT HER HOUSE AFTER SCHOOL TODAY,
AND I PLANNED TO GIVE THEM TO HER THEN,
SO I PUT THEM IN MY BAG.
THAT'S WHEN YOU FOUND THEM.
HMM ...

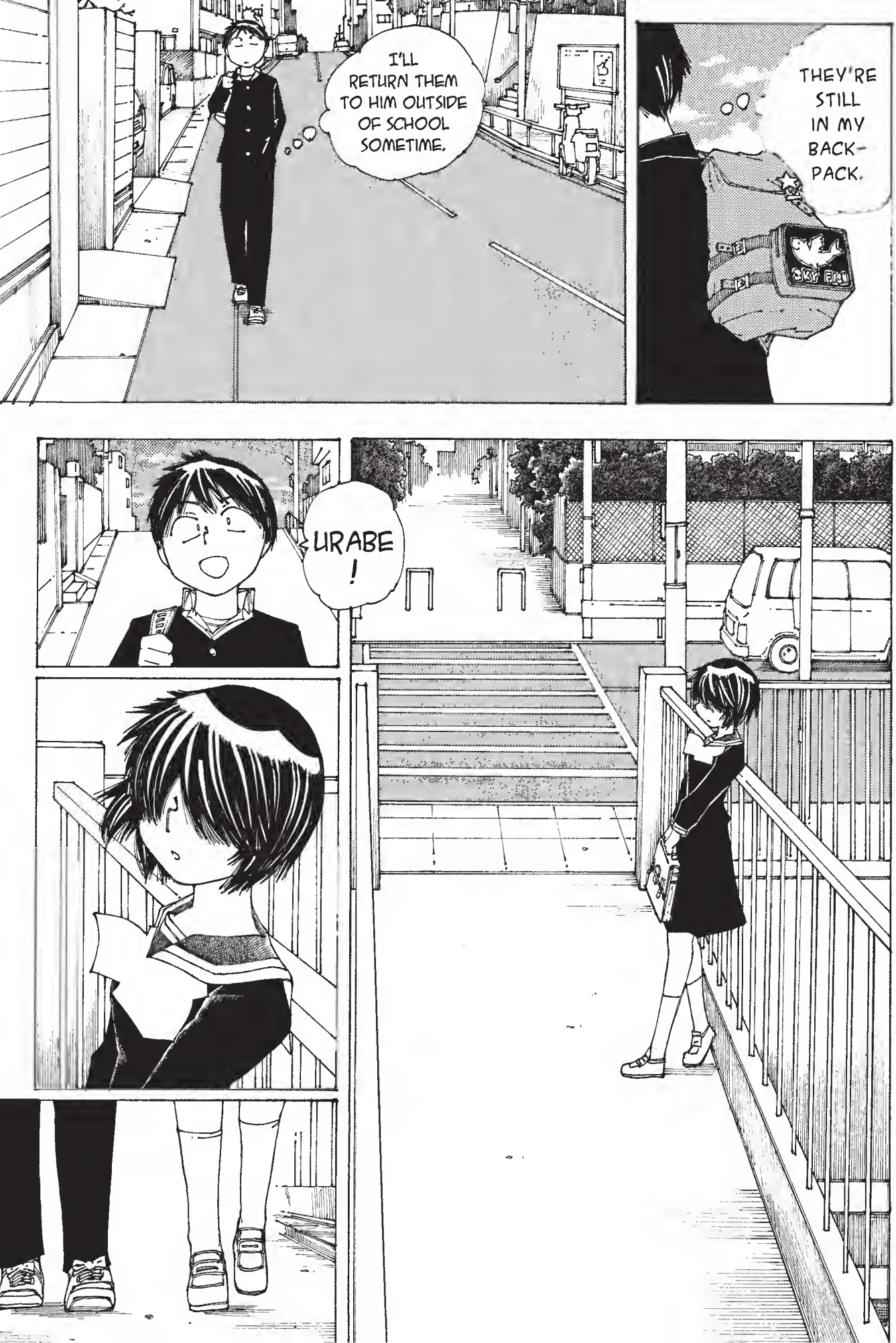

OH, HEY!
SO THIS IS WHERE YOU GUYS WENT!
WHOA !!
GAH!!

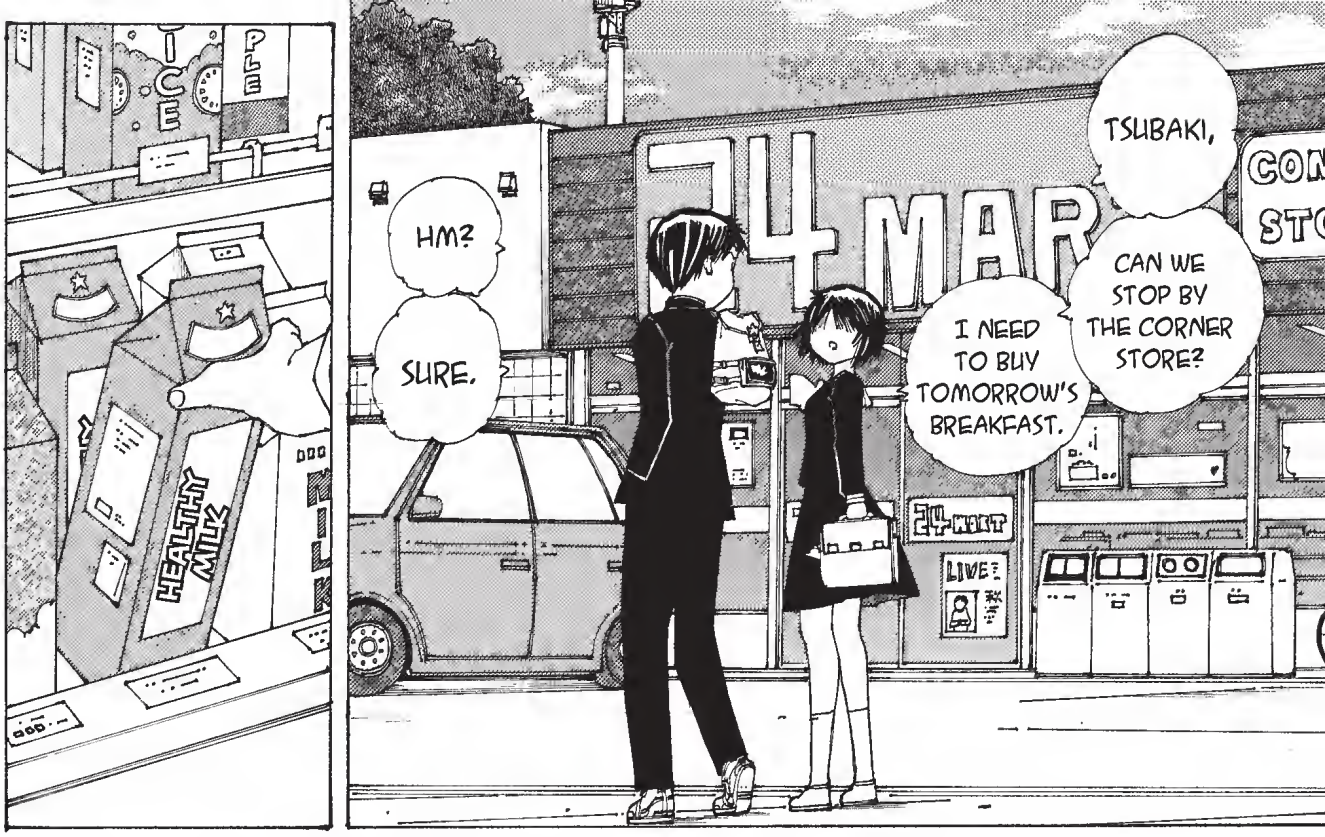
HIDING OUT ALONE BEHIND THE GYM?
YOU TWO MAKE ME WONDER ...
TH...
THERE'S NOTHING TO WONDER ABOUT!!

WHIP


IN THE END,
I DIDN'T GET A CHANCE TO RETURN THE CAT EARS
TO UENO BEFORE SCHOOL LET OUT.

HOLD ON
TO THOSE FOR A BIT, OKAY?
UH... SURE.


I'LL RETURN THEM TO HIM OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL SOMETIME.
THEY'RE STILL IN MY BACK-PACK.
URABE !


ICE
HEALTHY MILK
HM?
SURE.
TSUBAKI,
CAN WE STOP BY THE CORNER STORE?
I NEED TO BUY TOMORROW'S BREAKFAST.
LIVE!

FRESH BACON
FRESH BACON
FRESH BACON
AH...
BACON...

24 MART
THAT'LL BE 780 YEN.
BEEP
24 MART
BOUGHT BACON...
URABE
YOU FRY IT?
OH,
I FRY IT AND PUT IT BETWEEN BREAD AND LETTUCE OR SOMETHING TO MAKE A SANDWICH.
HUH?
HOW DO I...?
YOU BOUGHT BACON, RIGHT?
DO YOU EAT BACON?
SO HOW
URABE!
WHAT?
BUT...

URABE EATS BACON RAW, TOO?!
WHEN I'M LATE AND IN A HURRY,
SOMETIMES I EAT IT RAW.

I KIND OF WANT TO SEE THAT NOW... DID I CATCH UENO'S SICKNESS?
BADUM♥
BADUM♥
FRESH BACON
WHILE SHE EATS RAW BACON...
MY OWN GIRLFRIEND WEARING CAT EARS

HUH?
TSUBAKI!
WHAT?
ポン
SPOP
POK
DON'T...
HEY ...
AH!

MY BODY FEELS HOT...
MY HEART IS POUNDING ...
かぁー
BLUSH

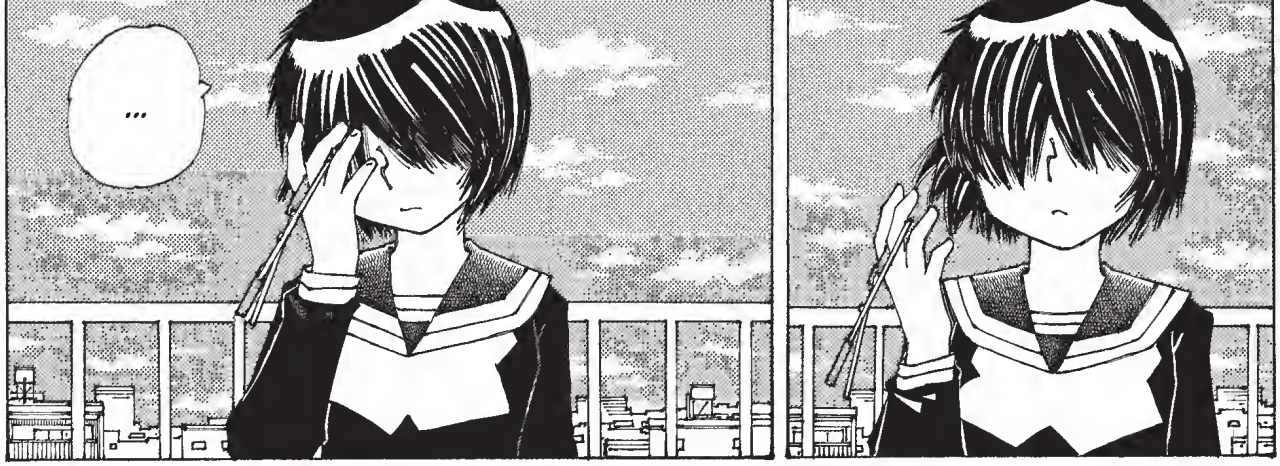
SNIP
SNIP
SNIP
SNIP
WHUP

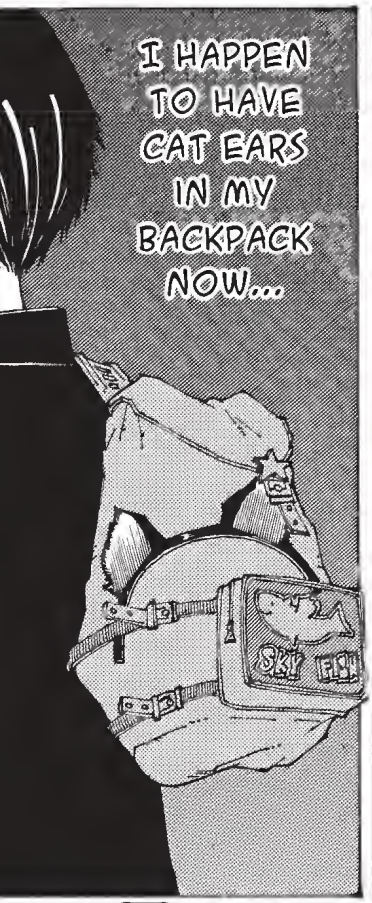
TSUBAKI,
WHAT WERE YOU THINKING ABOUT?

HUH?
I WASN'T THINKING ABOUT ANYTHING!

WHOA ...
ZOOM
SHATTER
WE PAY HIGH PRICES
FREE BUSINESS TRIPS
BIKE OH!
A TOP NAME IN THE INDUSTRY
No.1!
TEL
SPIN
SPIN
SPIN...
カラ カラ カラ...
WILL YOU TELL ME THE TRUTH NOW?
WHAT WERE YOU THINKING ABOUT
THAT MADE YOU FEEL SO AROUSED?

YOU EATING RAW BACON...
I WAS IMAGINING
...
GULP
SPIN カラ
SPIN カラ
SPIN カラ
WHY ...?
TH...
THAT'S RIGHT.
YOU WERE IMAGINING ME EATING RAW BACON...
HUH ...?
AND THAT...
DANGLE
MADE YOUR HEART BEAT SO FAST?
I DON'T NORMALLY SEE HER DO
DOING SOME-THING
THINKING OF MY GIRL-FRIEND
JUST... WELL...
WAS KIND OF REFRESHING ...
SKRITCH SKRITCH
WHAT AM I EVEN SAYING?





END OF CHAPTER 49

CHAPTER 50: MYSTERIOUS CARNIVORE GIRL (PART 2)

FINE.
I DON'T REALLY GET IT,
BUT I DON'T MIND LETTING YOU
SEE ME EATING RAW BACON.
I HAPPEN TO HAVE CAT EARS IN MY BACKPACK NOW...
SKIN FISH
BUT WOULD URABE GET MAD IF I ASKED HER TO WEAR CAT EARS WHILE SHE EATS IT?!
OH...
THANKS...

RIP
FRESH BACON
HAM
FRESH BACON
HAM
FRESH BACON
HAM
CHOMP
..

NOOH

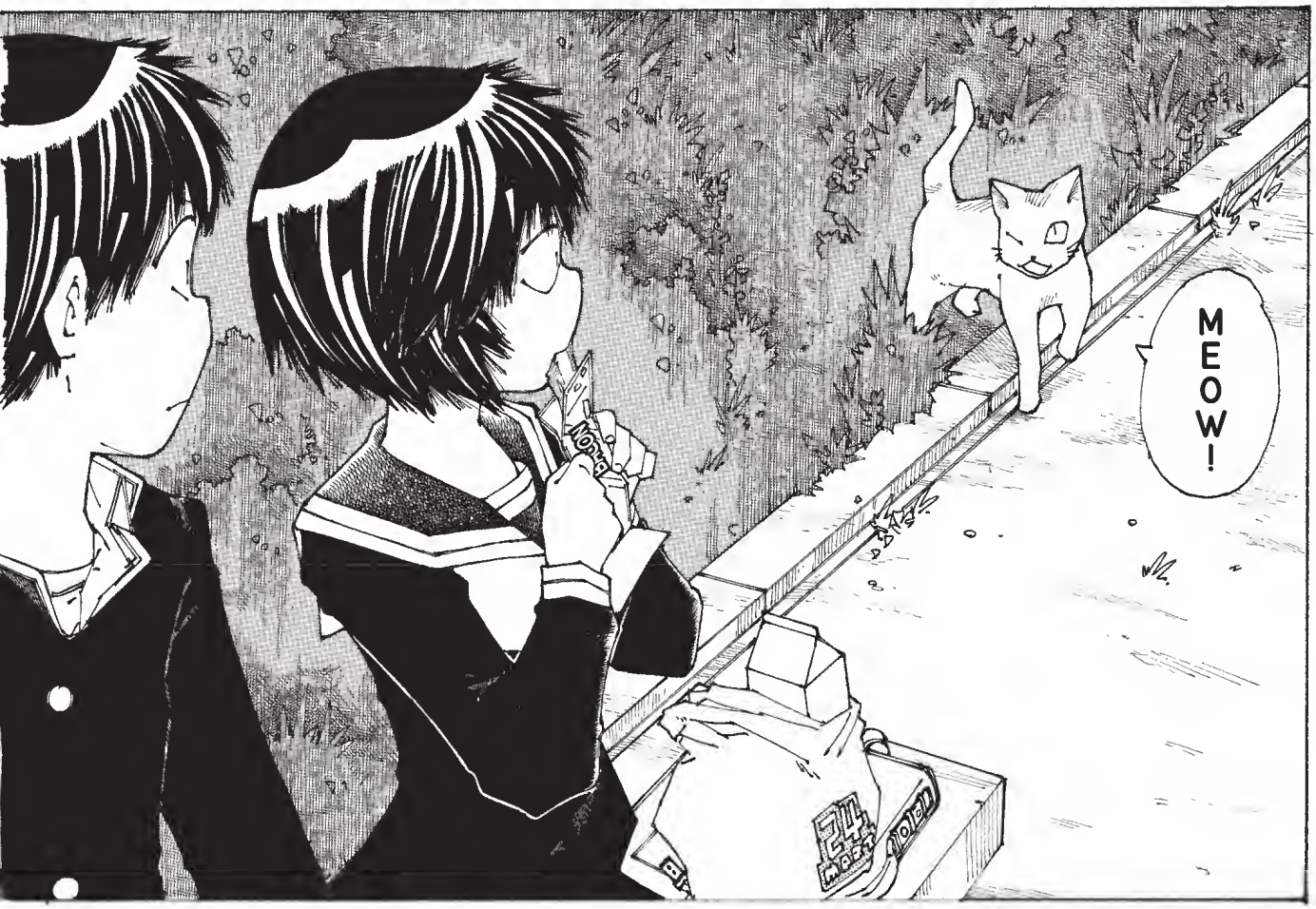
NOOH

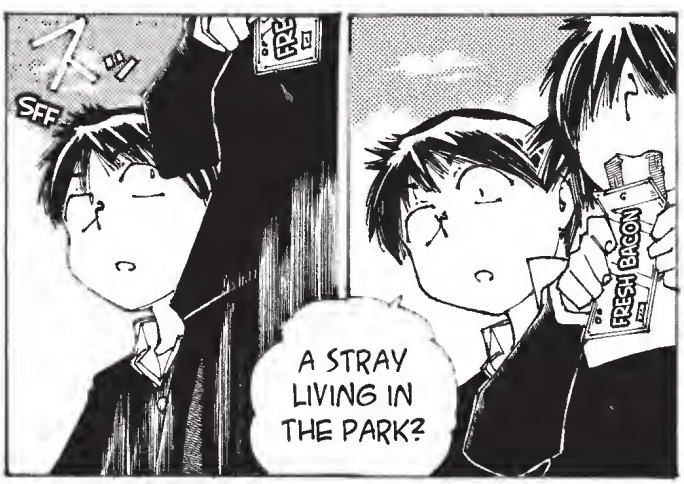
NO I'M NOT!!
THERE'S SOMETHING MISSING!
I WANT TO SEE HER EATING
RAW BACON WHILE WEARING
CAT EARS!
NOOOO!!
HUH?
UH...
YEAH.

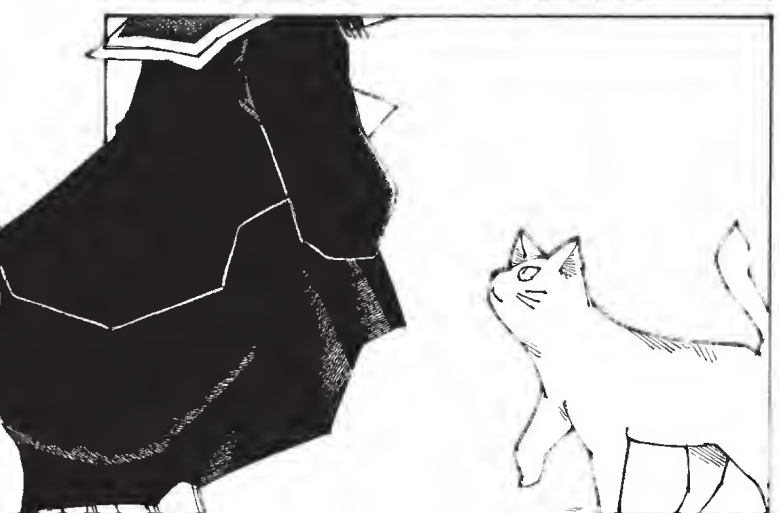
SATISFIED
?

RUSTLE
RUSTLE

BUT I CAN'T
JUST BLURT OUT,
"PUT ON CAT EARS"
...

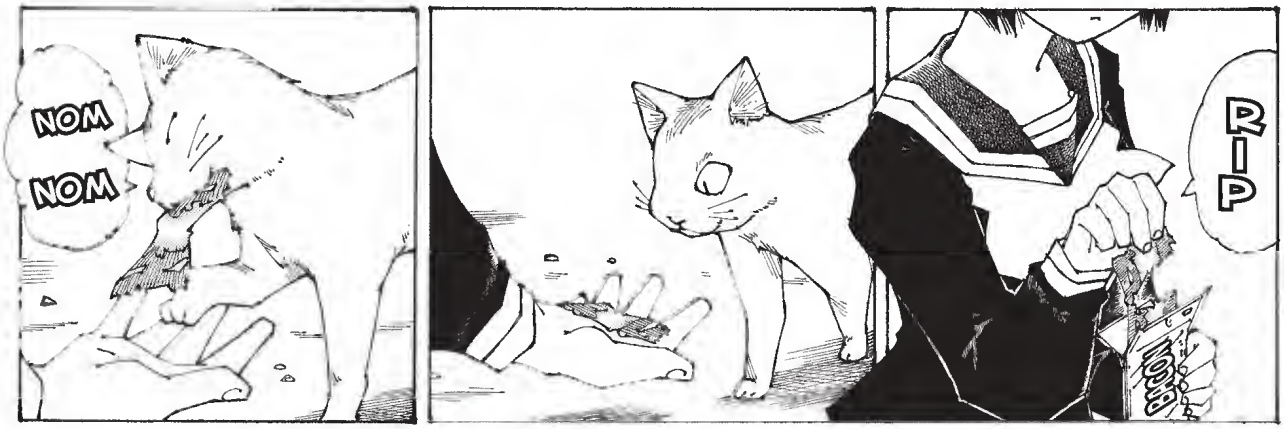

MEOW!

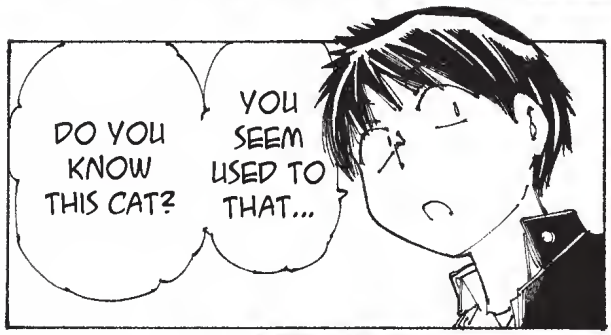

SFF
A STRAY LIVING IN THE PARK?



OH,
A CAT.
MEOW!

MEOW.
MEOW.

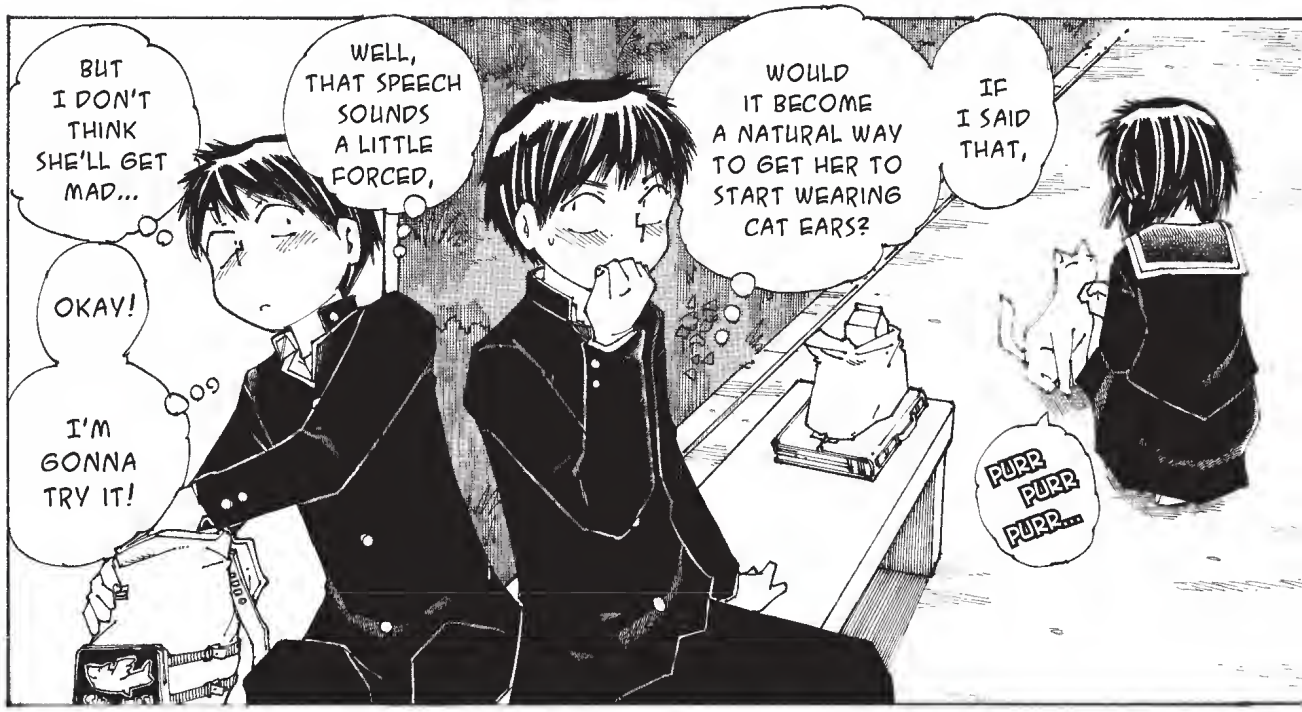

NOM
NOM
RIP


DO YOU KNOW THIS CAT?
YOU SEEM USED TO THAT...

NO.
NEVER SEEN IT BEFORE.

THAT'S RARE. URABE IS SMILING.
WOW ...
URABE,
YOU LIKE CATS?
THAT'S IT!
FLASH
YEAH.
CATS ARE PRETTY CUTE, HUH?
YEAH.
FRESH BACON
FRESH BACON
PURR PURR PURR

QUIETLY SNEAK UP ON URABE...
IF I CAN JUST
HUH?
キュッ
SLIP
WHAT IS THIS?
?
CAT EARS.
CATS ARE CUTE,
BUT TO ME,
YOU'RE WAY CUTER.


BUT I DON'T THINK SHE'LL GET MAD...
WELL, THAT SPEECH SOUNDS A LITTLE FORCED,
WOULD IT BECOME A NATURAL WAY TO GET HER TO START WEARING CAT EARS?
IF I SAID THAT,
OKAY!
I'M GONNA TRY IT!
PURR PURR PURR...

ギャー
SLIP
WHIP
FRESH BACON

HUH ...?!
PURR PURR PURR
THAT SHE DIDN'T NOTICE THAT I PUT CAT EARS ON HER!
IN PETTING THE CAT...
SHE'S SO IMMERSED
...
URABE!
HEY!
UH...
URABE...
U...

HEY, URABE !!
LEAP
RUSTLE
WAH!
AH!
PING
FRESH BACON
JOLT

URABE ...
YOUR HEAD...
UH... WELL...
IT RAN AWAY...
NOW BECAUSE YOU SHOUTED LIKE THAT...
...

CRAP!
NOW SHE'S IN A BAD MOOD...
UH...
NO ...
NOTHING ...
HUH?
GLARE
じろ
WHAT?
THIS ISN'T GOOD...
LET'S GO HOME.
C'MON,
UH...
YEAH...
24 MART

I LOST MY CHANCE TO TELL HER
SHE'S WEARING CAT EARS...
!

...
?
?
THE USUAL ...
HERE,
SHLP
SHLP
?
VOICE
BRANCH
ROOMS ARE NOW HALF PRICE
FREE TIME

SO CUTE...
WHAT IS IT?
TSUBAKI,
YOUR FACE IS RED...
IS IT SOMETHING ELSE BESIDES THE BACON?
UH...
NO, IT'S NOT...
HUH?
URABE!
U...
YOUR HEAD!
LET HER GO HOME LIKE THAT...
I GUESS I CAN'T
STILL,
WELL,
SEE YOU TO-MOR-ROW!
CAT EARS ON YOUR HEAD!
YOU HAVE
UH, I MEAN ...

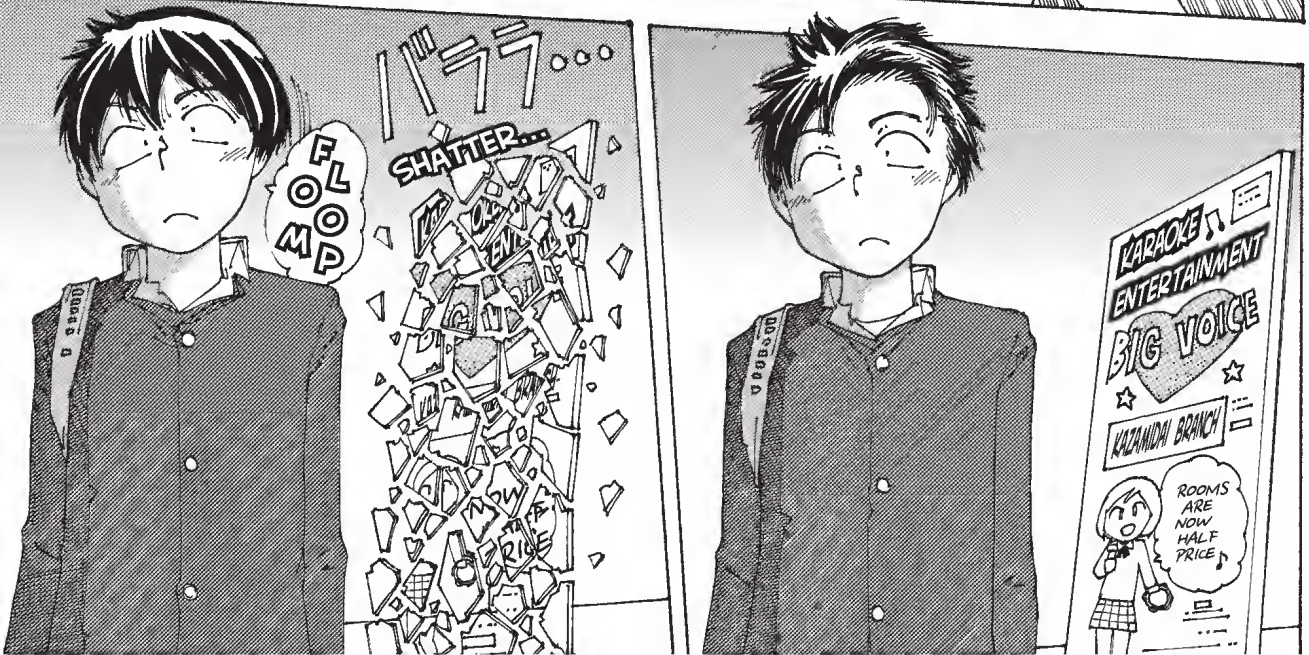
CAT EARS?
HUH ...?
VROOM...
ブウウン...
VROOOOOM
ブーーーン

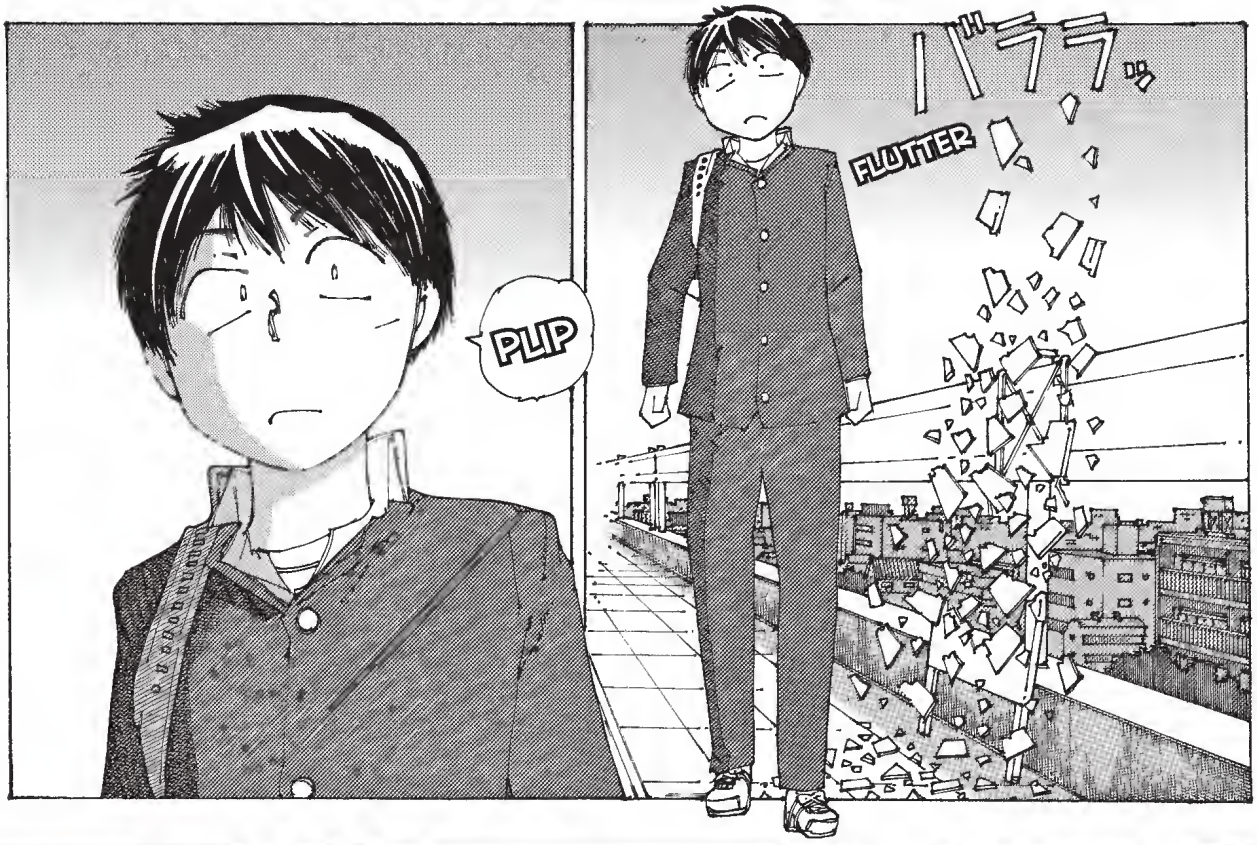
VROOM...
ブウウン...
Sky Fish
PUT THESE ON ME?
DID YOU...
HUH?
AH...
WELL...
THESE...
ARE YOURS?
DID YOU BUY THEM?
I'M REALLY SORRY !!
I SNUCK THEM ON WHILE YOU WERE PLAYING WITH THAT CAT!
I'M...
I'M SORRY !!
TELL ME THE TRUTH...

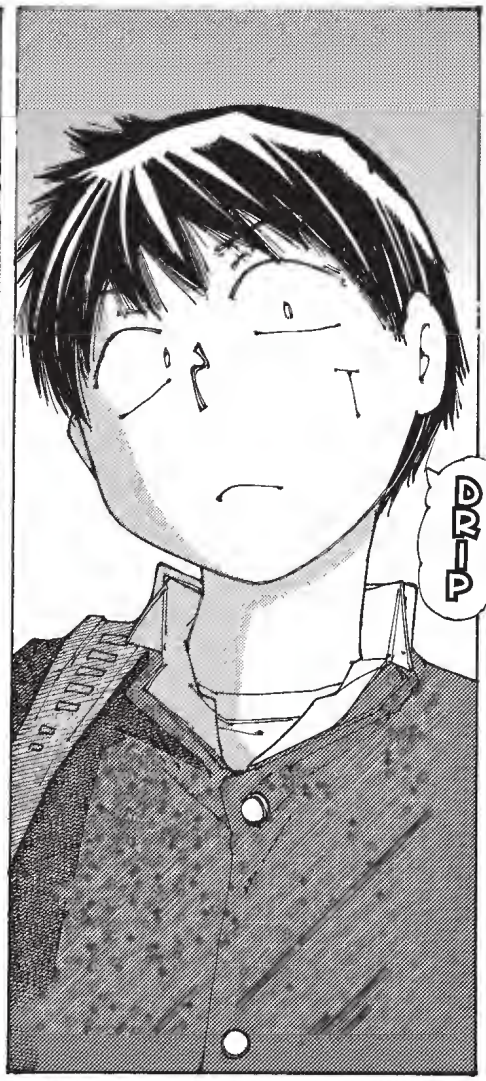
THEY'RE FOR UENO TO PUT ON OKA...
あわわ...
PANIC PANIC...
I JUST HAPPENED TO BE HOLDING ON TO THEM FOR UENO!
THEY'RE NOT MINE!
IT ...
IT STARTED WITH A STORY
UENO TOLD ME...
SWEEP
AH ...
UHM ...
OKA ...?
IT MADE ME WANT TO SEE YOU EATING RAW BACON WEARING CAT EARS...
AND I GUESS ...
AND
SINCE I HAD UENO'S CAT EARS IN MY BACKPACK, I JUST...
THAT OKA WEARS CAT EARS WHEN SHE EATS RAW BACON...
HE SAID...
THEY CAME UP WITH SOME WEIRD RULE

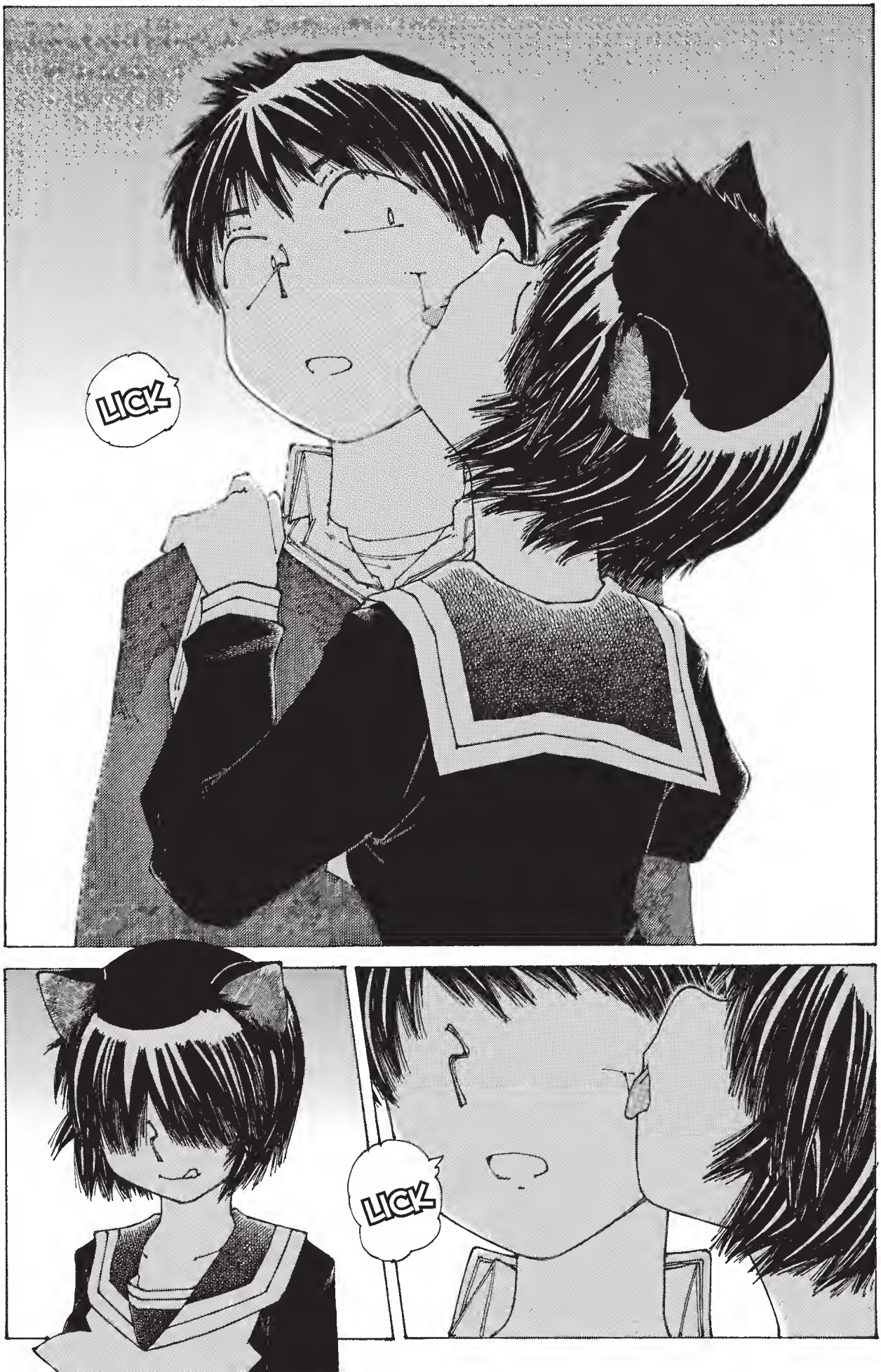
DO YOU LIKE THE WAY I LOOK
IN CAT EARS?
TSUBAKI ...
THUP
A...
IF I WEAR THOSE,
EVEN IF I'M NOT A REAL CAT,
STILL,
DON'T DO THAT.
UH...
YEAH.
HUH?
MON-STER CAT?
IT'LL TURN ME INTO A MONSTER CAT...
SLIDE

ジャキジャキ
SNIP
SNIP
SNIP
SNIP
WHIP


バラ…
SHATTER…
FLOOP
KARAOKE ENTERTAINMENT
BIG VOICE
KAZAMIDAI BRANCH
ROOMS ARE NOW HALF PRICE

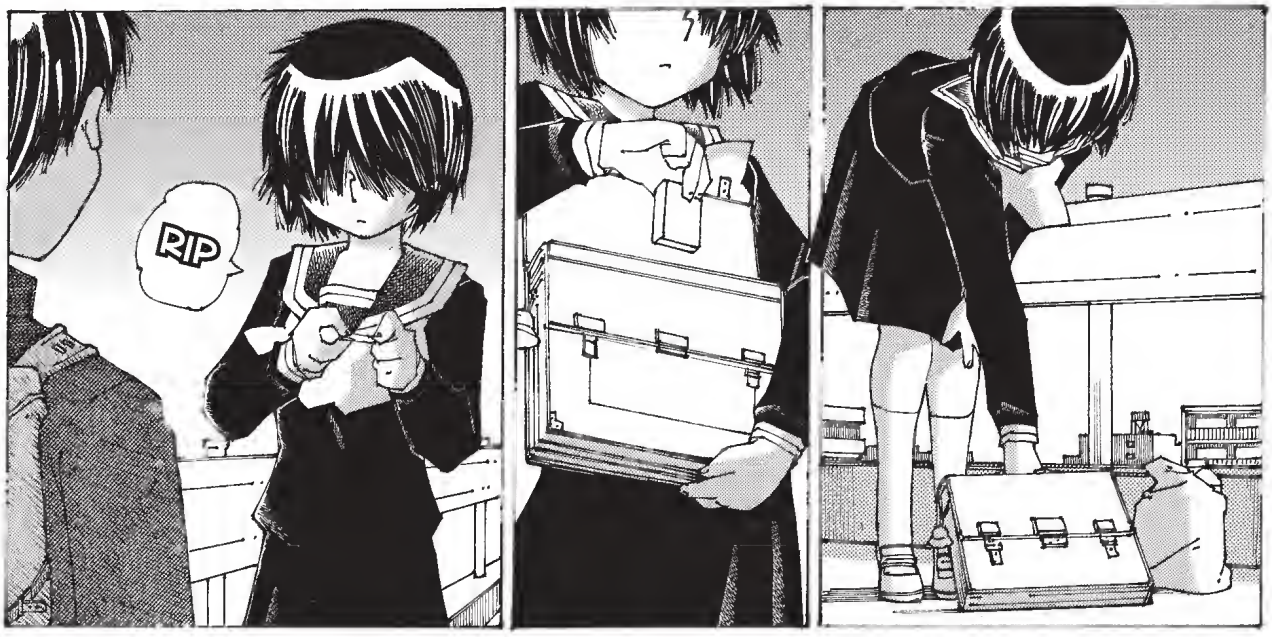

PLIP
バララ
FLUTTER


DRIP

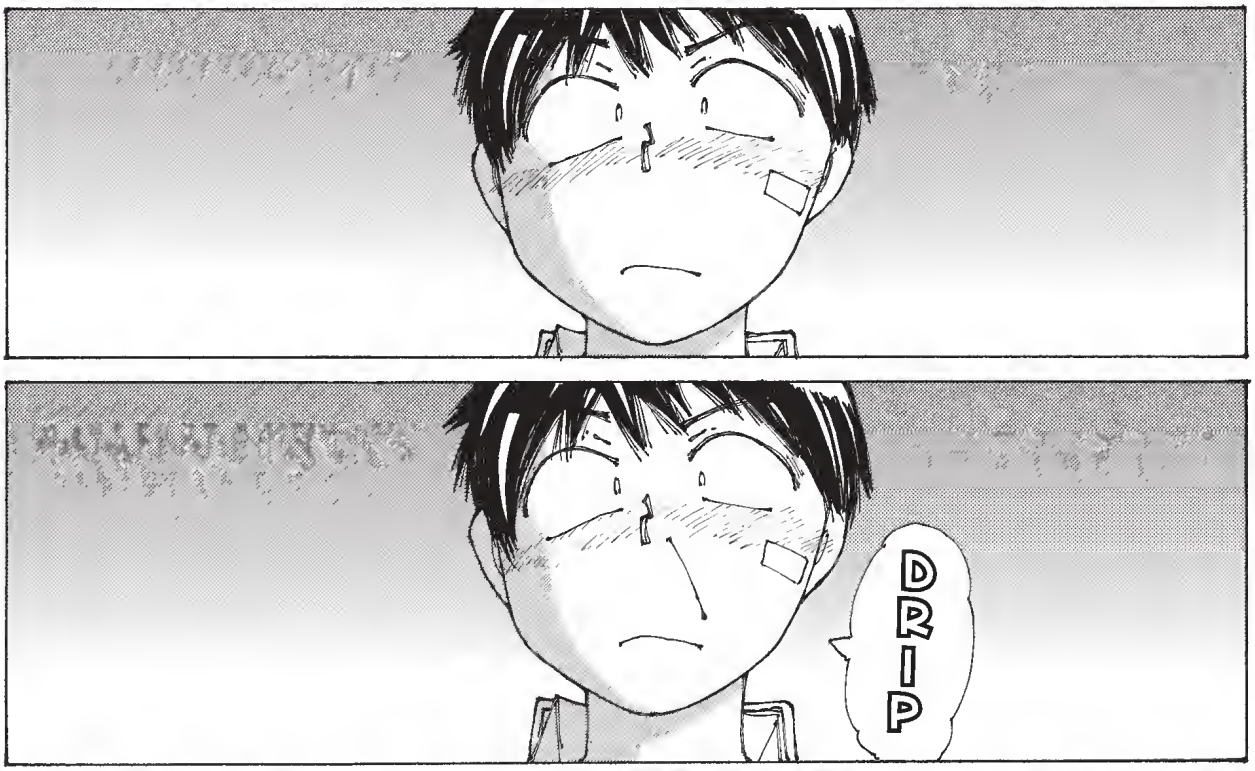

LICK
LICK

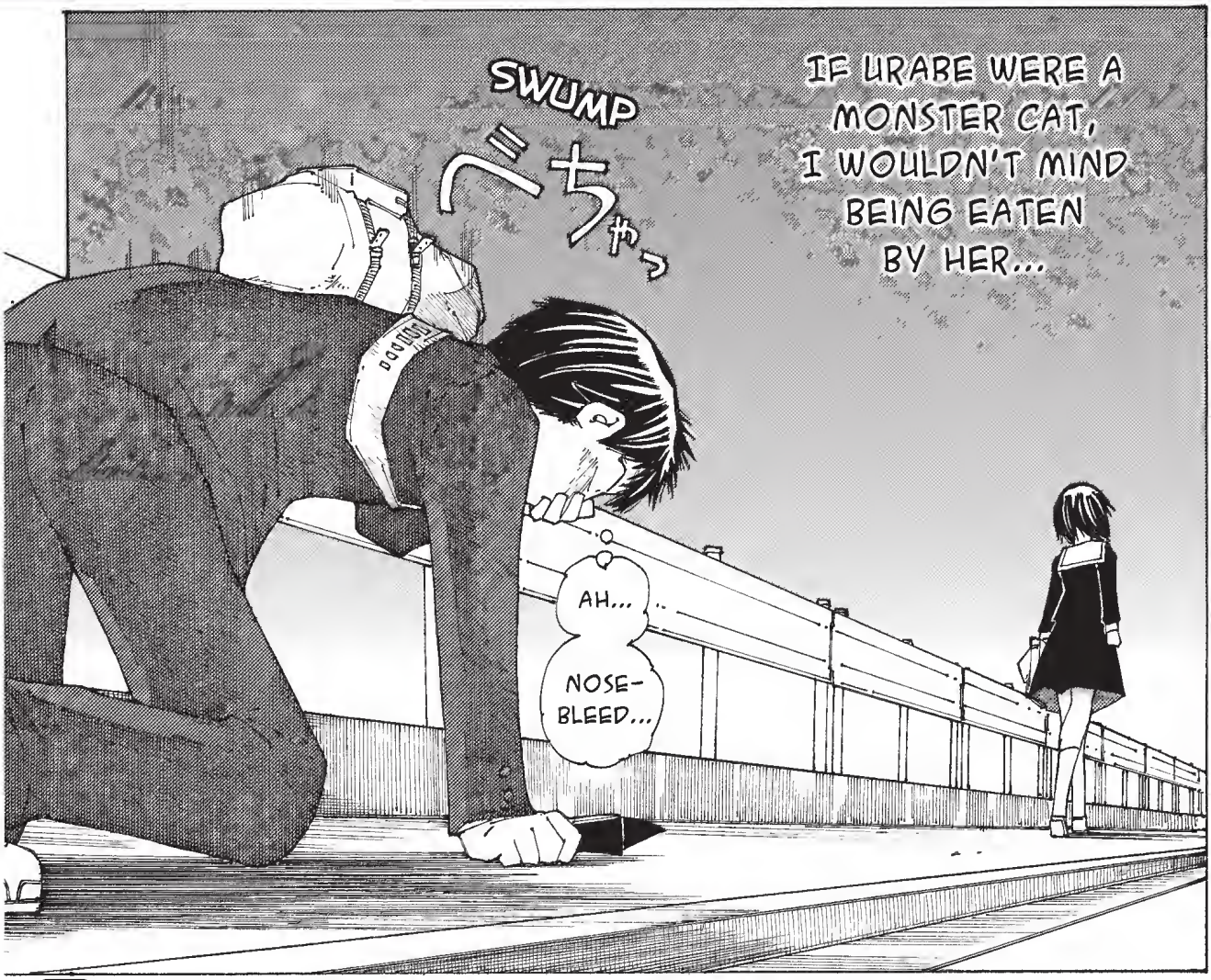
WHEN I WEAR CAT EARS,
INSTEAD OF EATING BACON...
I MIGHT JUST EAT TSUBAKI, MEOW.
IT'S SWEET, MEOW.
PO
MF

BACK TO UENO.
GIVE THE CAT EARS
SO DON'T DO THAT.


RIP

SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW.
WELL, TSUBAKI,
STICK

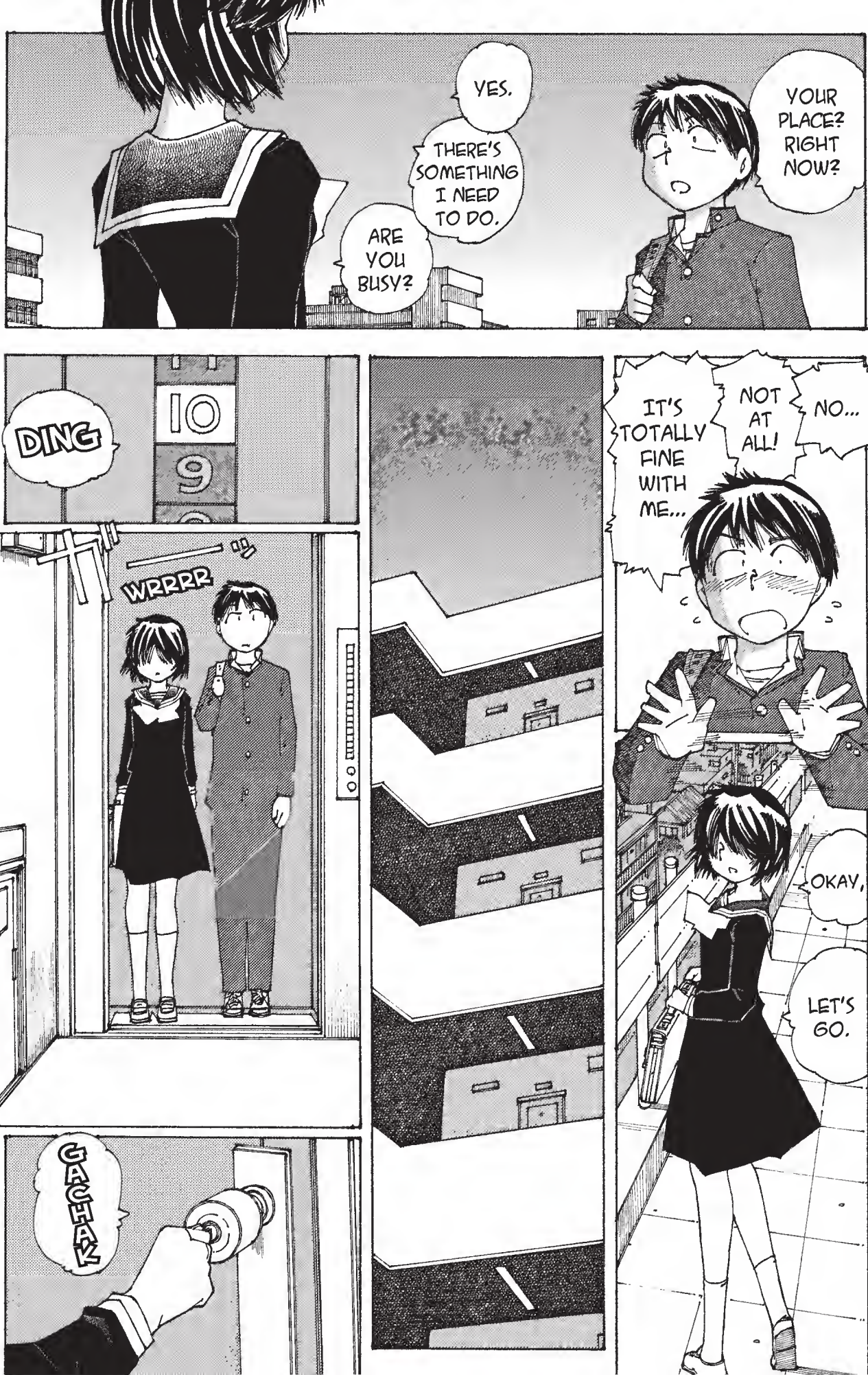




END OF CHAPTER 50

CHAPTER 51: MYSTERIOUS "SLANTED EYES VS. DROOPY EYES" (PART 1)

SHLP
WELL, SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW,
URABE.
WAIT, TSUBAKI.
CAN YOU
COME TO MY PLACE NOW?
HUH?


ARE YOU BUSY?
THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO DO.
YES.
YOUR PLACE? RIGHT NOW?
DING
10
9
WRRRR
GACHAK
NO...
NOT AT ALL!
IT'S TOTALLY FINE WITH ME...
OKAY,
LET'S GO.

KCHAK
IT'S UNUSUAL FOR URABE TO ASK ME OVER ON THE WAY HOME FROM SCHOOL...
AND WHAT IS IT THAT SHE HAS TO DO?
RATTLE RATTLE
TSUBAKI,
COME IN,
COME IN.
TSUBAKI,
SIT DOWN,
SIT DOWN.
STARE

GCHAK
TSUBAKI ...
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
... SOMETHING LIKE THAT ...?
TSUBAKI.
AH, OKAY...
I GUESS I'LL COME IN.
OH...
WAIT IN THE ENTRYWAY FOR A BIT.
HUH?
THAT YOU SAID YOU
HAVE BEEN HAVING TROUBLE IN MATH CLASS LATELY.
I HAVE A REFERENCE BOOK THAT EXPLAINS IT CLEARLY,
SO I THOUGHT I'D LEND IT TO YOU.

IF...

WAIT HERE AND I'LL GO GET IT, OKAY?
KLATTER
KLATTER
KLATTER
OH...
A REFERENCE BOOK...

I WONDER HOW SHE WOULD REACT...
IF I WERE TO HUG HER HERE AND NOW,
GULP
SEE
TSUBAKI.

WANT TO BORROW THAT, TOO?
I READ A REALLY INTERESTING NOVEL RECENTLY.
HUH?
OH...
SURE, IF YOU SAY IT'S GOOD.
HUH ...?!
YES?
WHAT'S UP?
HERE
YOU GO.
TH...
THANK YOU!
TMP
TMP
TMP
OKAY, I'LL BRING THAT, TOO.
OH, OKAY.

BTAM
OK, SEE YOU LATER.
THANKS.
OH, OKAY.
WHEN-EVER YOU WANT.
YOU CAN RE-TURN THEM
IT SEEMS LIKE MY RELATION-SHIP WITH URABE...
JUST CAN'T MANAGE TO GET TO THE NEXT STEP...
WELL...
HOW DO I PUT IT...
WHENEVER I TRY TO DO SOMETHING, SHE GIVES ME THAT SHARP LOOK, AND I JUST WITHER UNDER HER GAZE...

IF URABE AND I WILL EVER BE IN BED TOGETHER, AND SHE'LL STARE AT ME WITH THOSE SHARP EYES...
I WONDER ...
I WONDER IF THAT DAY WILL COME...
REALLY, THOUGH ...
JUST IMAGINING IT IS ABOUT TO MAKE MY NOSE BLEED...
CRAP ...

TSUBAKI!
TSUBAKI!
HUH?
MR. TANAKA SAID HE NEEDS YOU TO COME TO THE FACULTY OFFICE AFTER SCHOOL.
MR. TANAKA (HOMEROOM)
THE FACULTY OFFICE?
I THINK IT'S ABOUT THE SURVEYS OF OUR FUTURE PLANS.
REMEMBER? YOU AND I ARE IN CHARGE OF COLLECTING THEM FROM OUR CLASS.
AH...
YOU THINK IT'LL TAKE A WHILE?
I DON'T THINK WE'LL BE DONE RIGHT AWAY.
I THINK HE WANTS TO EXPLAIN SOME THINGS IN DETAIL.

HMM...
IF IT'LL TAKE A WHILE,
I WON'T BE ABLE TO MEET URABE TODAY...
OKAY, AFTER SCHOOL, LET'S GO TO THE FACULTY OFFICE TOGETHER!
OH, OKAY.
GOT IT.
GLANCE
JOLT

THE "I HAVE SOMETHING TO DO TODAY, SO DON'T WAIT FOR ME AND GO ON HOME" SIGN
ぎゅっ
WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?
I HAVE TO STAY AFTER SCHOOL AND WORK WITH SUWANO. I CAN'T HELP IT.
YET SHE GLARED AT ME LIKE I WAS CHEATING ON HER...
I WOULD NEVER DO ANYTHING LIKE THAT!

URABE!
I SAW YOU TWO ♥
DURING THE BREAK EARLIER, YOU PUT SOME PRESSURE ON TSUBAKI, DIDN'T YOU?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
PRESSURE?
WHEN TSUBAKI WAS TALKING TO SUWANO EARLIER, YOU GLARED DAGGERS AT HIM, DIDN'T YOU?
THAT WAS
I WASN'T PRESSURING HIM.
IT SOUNDED LIKE HE WAS GOING TO BE LEAVING SCHOOL LATE TODAY,
SO I WAS JUST WATCHING FOR HIM TO GIVE ME THE SIGN TO GO HOME FIRST...
WHAT?
YOUR WAY OF PRESSURING HIM TO NOT CHEAT ON YOU, RIGHT?

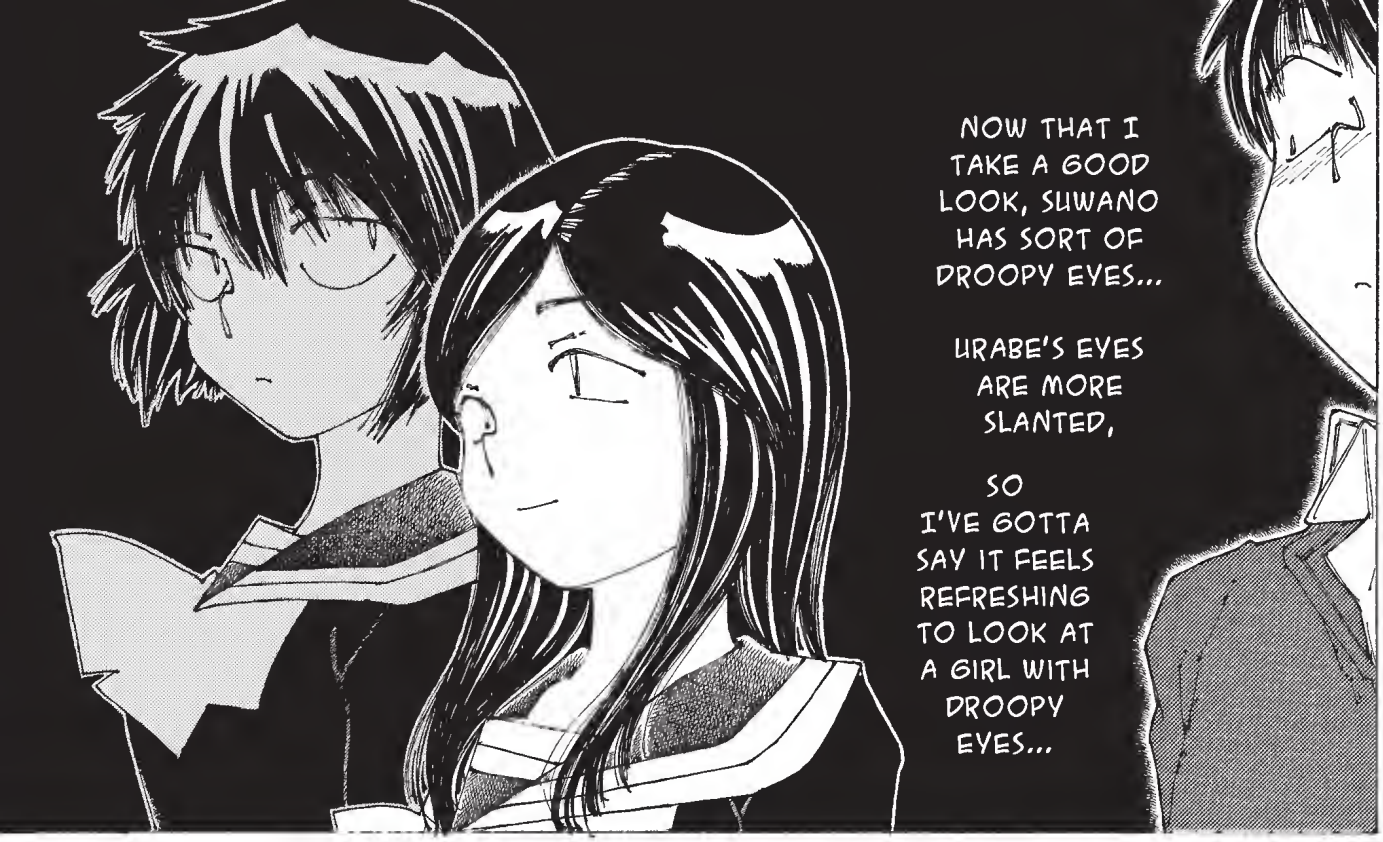
I WAS JUST LOOKING AT HIM.
OF COURSE NOT.
HUH?
BUT YOUR EYES LOOKED
REALLY PISSED OFF TO ME.
YOU WEREN'T MAD?
GLARING AT HIM OR ANYTHING.
I WASN'T

HMM... YOUR EYES DO KIND OF SLANT UPWARDS...
THAT YOU'RE MAD, EVEN IF YOU'RE JUST BEING QUIET.
THEY COULD GIVE THE IMPRESSION
WHAP

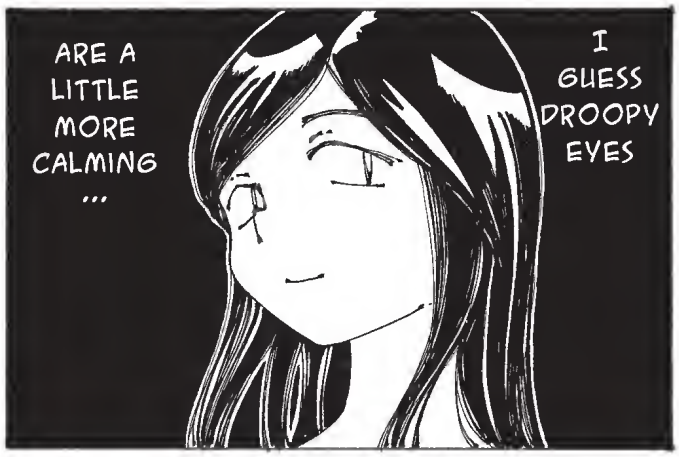
THEY SAY HER SOFT EYES HAVE A SOOTHING EFFECT!
EVEN TSUBAKI MIGHT BE STUNNED FOR A SECOND THERE!
SUWANO IS PRETTY POPULAR WITH GUYS!
SHFF
WHIP
BUT EITHER WAY,
WAS THE RIGHT IDEA.
PUTTING PRESSURE ON TSUBAKI

SO GUYS...
REALLY DO LIKE GIRLS WITH THAT TYPE OF EYES...
I'D LIKE YOUR EYES
MUCH MORE THAN SUWANO'S!
OH, BUT IF I HAD BEEN BORN A BOY,
TSUBAKI, SUWA-NO,
OKAY, THAT'LL BE ALL.
BE SURE TO FINISH BY NEXT WEEK.
DON'T DREAM UP WEIRD FANTASIES BASED ON ME...
EH HEH HEH...
MORE THAN GIRLS WITH SOOTHING EYES, THE IDEA OF CONQUERING A GIRL WITH SHARP EYES AND STRIPPING HER DOWN IS QUITE A TURN-ON...

TAKE CARE OF THE BOYS ON YOUR LIST, OKAY?
SURE.
ガラガラ…
SLIDE…
IT'S NOTHING!
OH, UH...
HM?
WHAT IS IT,
TSUBAKI?

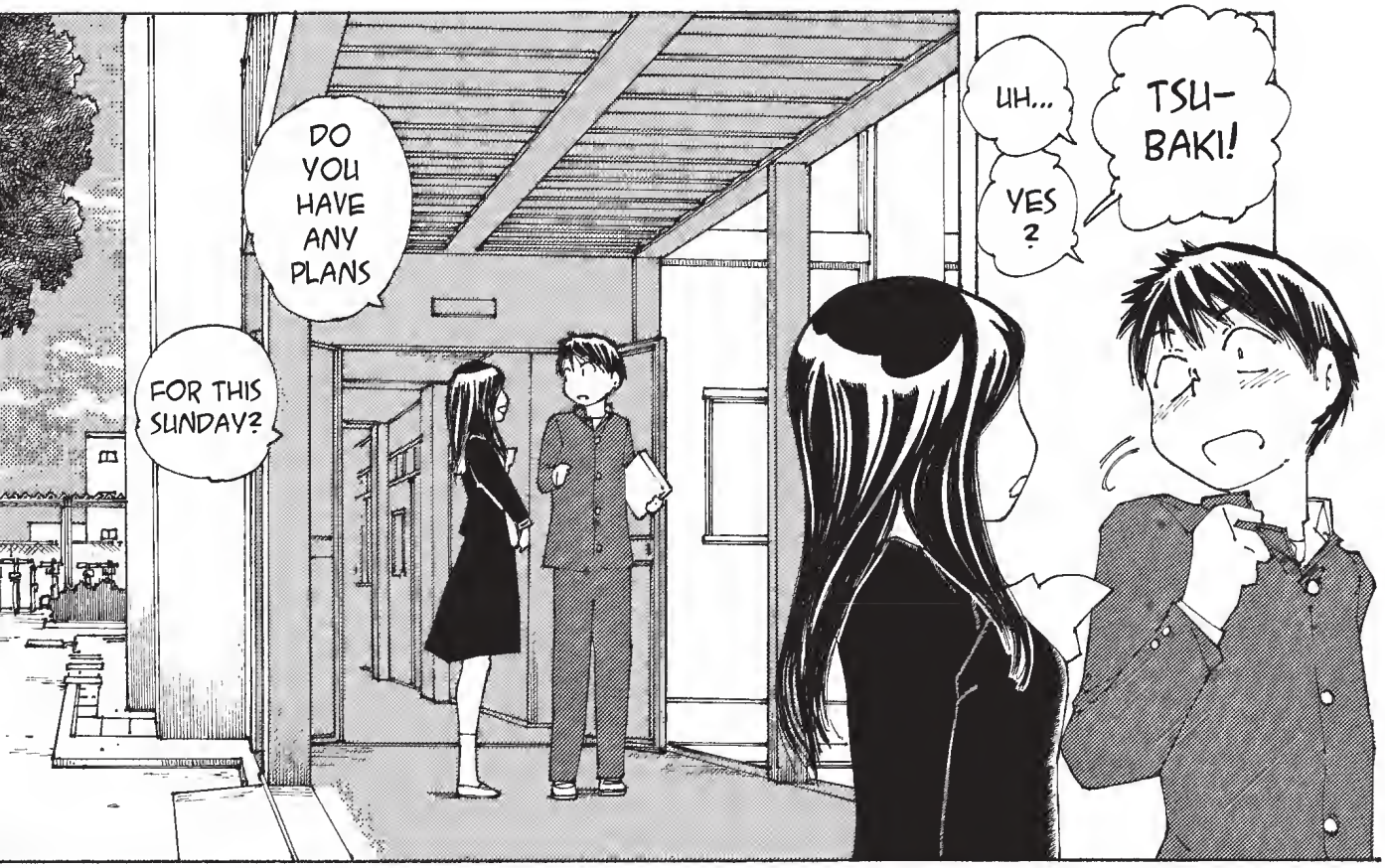

NOW THAT I TAKE A GOOD LOOK, SUWANO HAS SORT OF DROOPY EYES...
URABE'S EYES ARE MORE SLANTED,
SO I'VE GOTTA SAY IT FEELS REFRESHING TO LOOK AT A GIRL WITH DROOPY EYES...

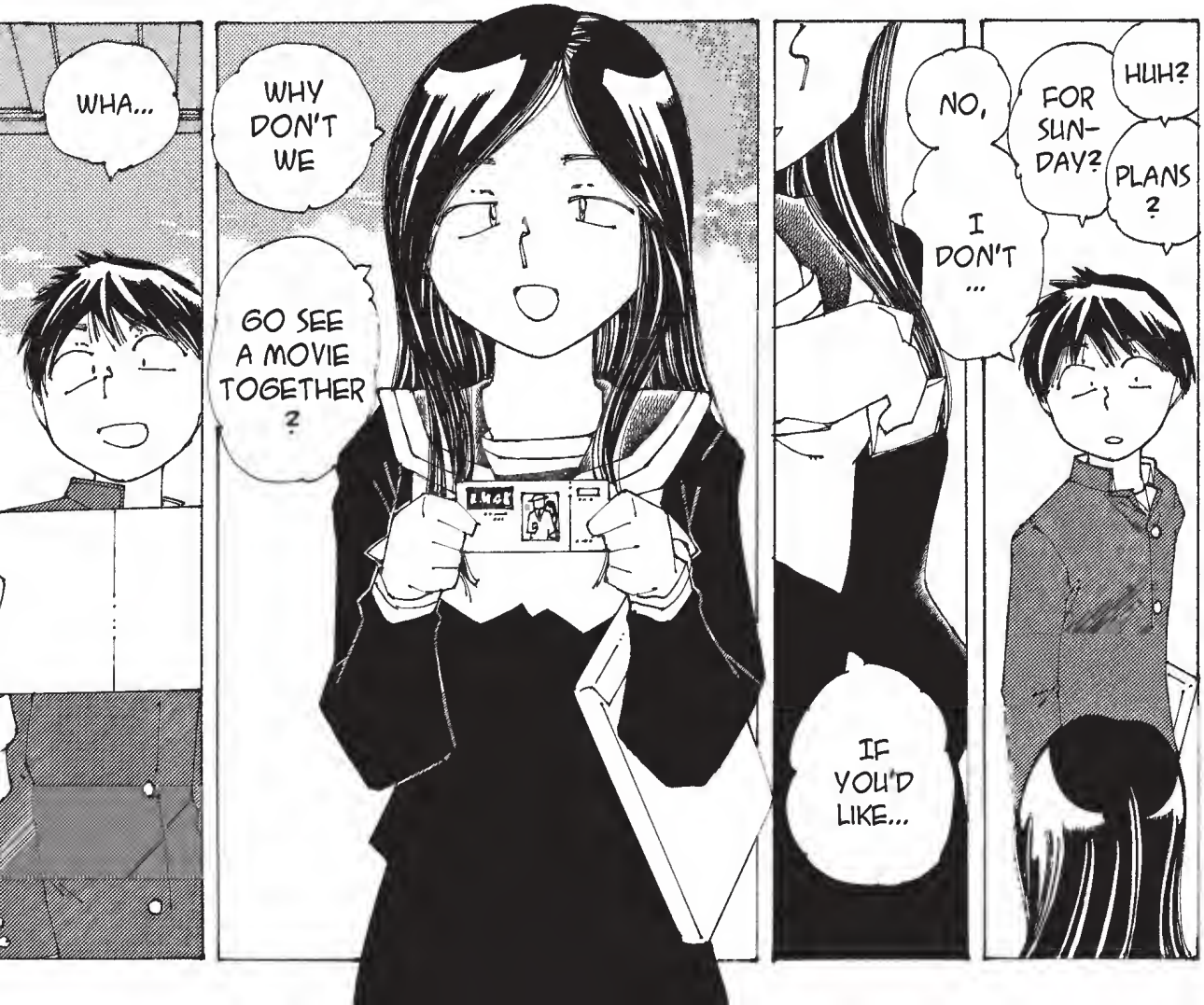
HAD EYES LIKE THAT...
IF MY GIRL-FRIEND


ARE A LITTLE MORE CALMING ...
I GUESS DROOPY EYES

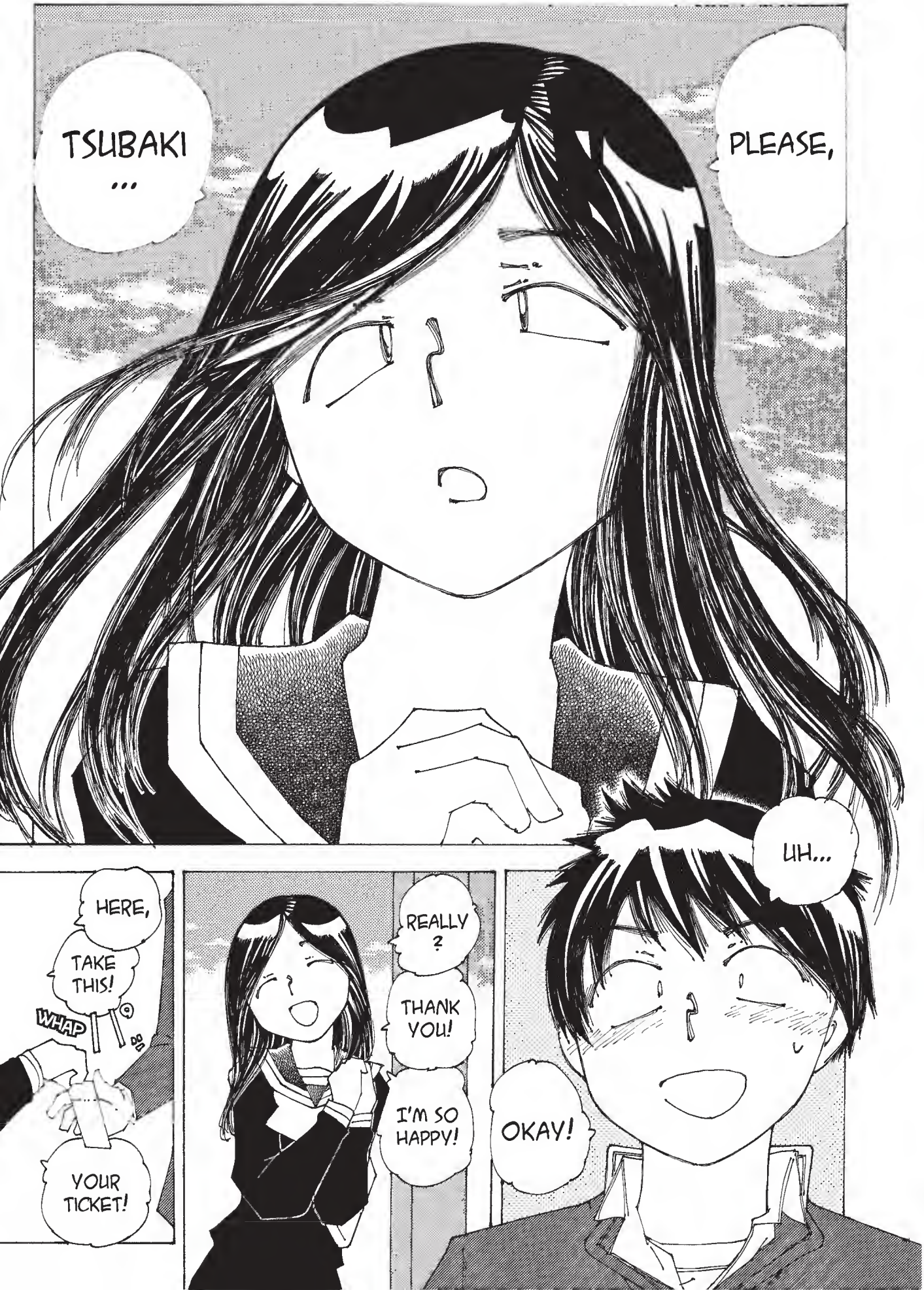
COULD I...?
HMM...
TSUBAKI.

A LITTLE MORE ASSERTIVE WITH HER?
COULD I HAVE BEEN


TSU-BAKI!
UH...
YES?
DO YOU HAVE ANY PLANS
FOR THIS SUNDAY?


HUH?
FOR SUN-DAY?
NO, I DON'T ...
PLANS?
IF YOU'D LIKE...
WHY DON'T WE
GO SEE A MOVIE TOGETHER?
WHA...

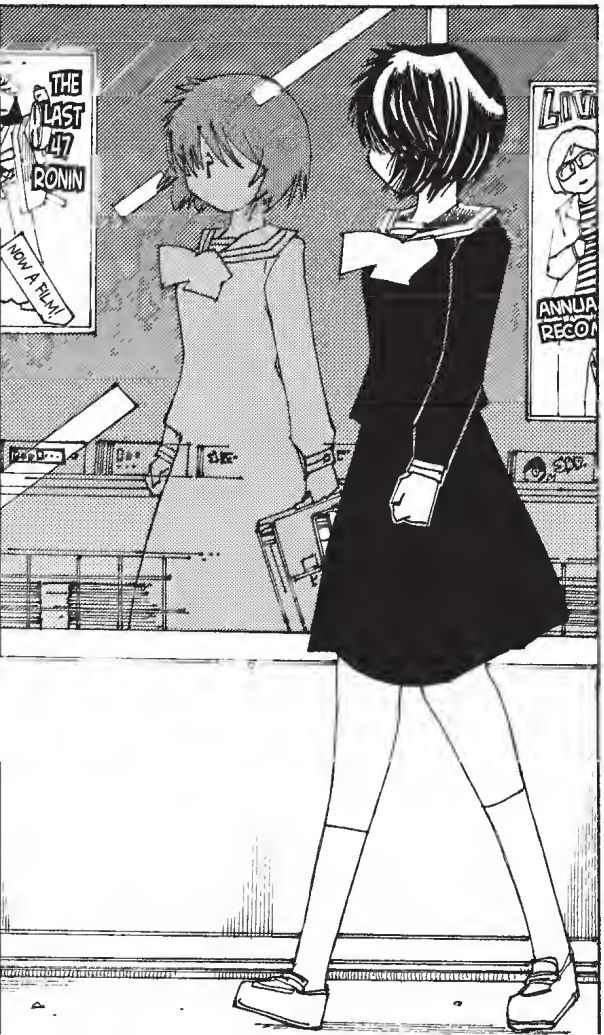
I'M ACTUALLY REALLY BUSY ON SUNDAY...
I MEAN,
ガガ...
WHOOSH...
IF I DID THAT, URA—
I CAN'T! I CAN'T! I CAN'T!
UH...
NO...
GLARE
ガガガ...
WHOOSH...
GRIP
THE WIND...
フワッ
FWOOSH
WHOA,
WHAT THE?

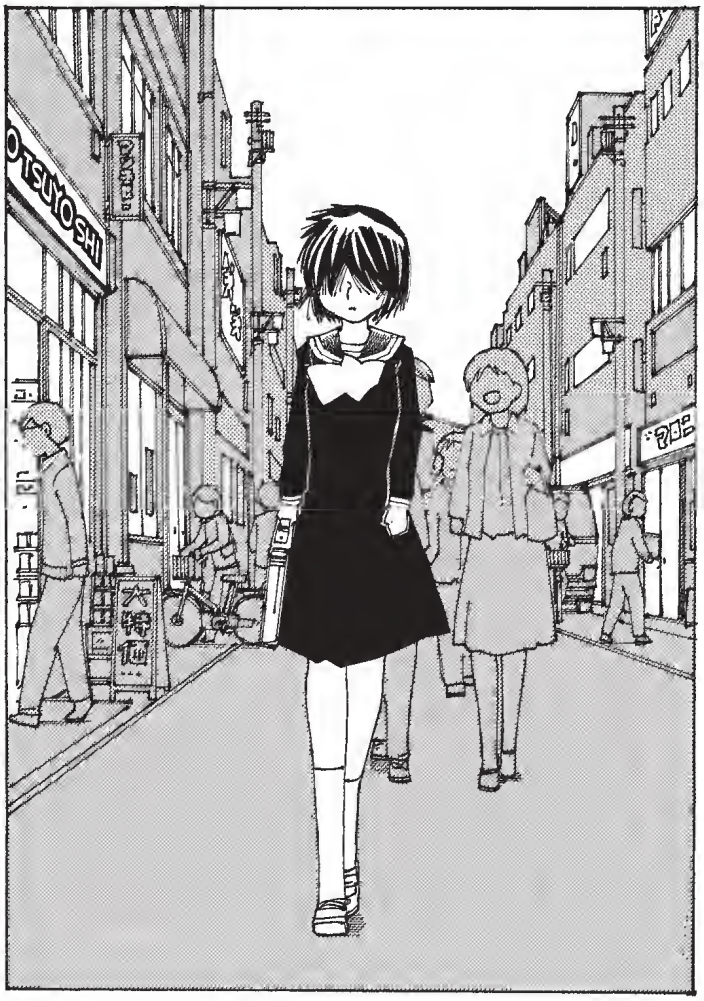

TSUBAKI ...
PLEASE,
UH...
OKAY!
REALLY?
THANK YOU!
I'M SO HAPPY!
HERE,
TAKE THIS!
WHAP
YOUR TICKET!

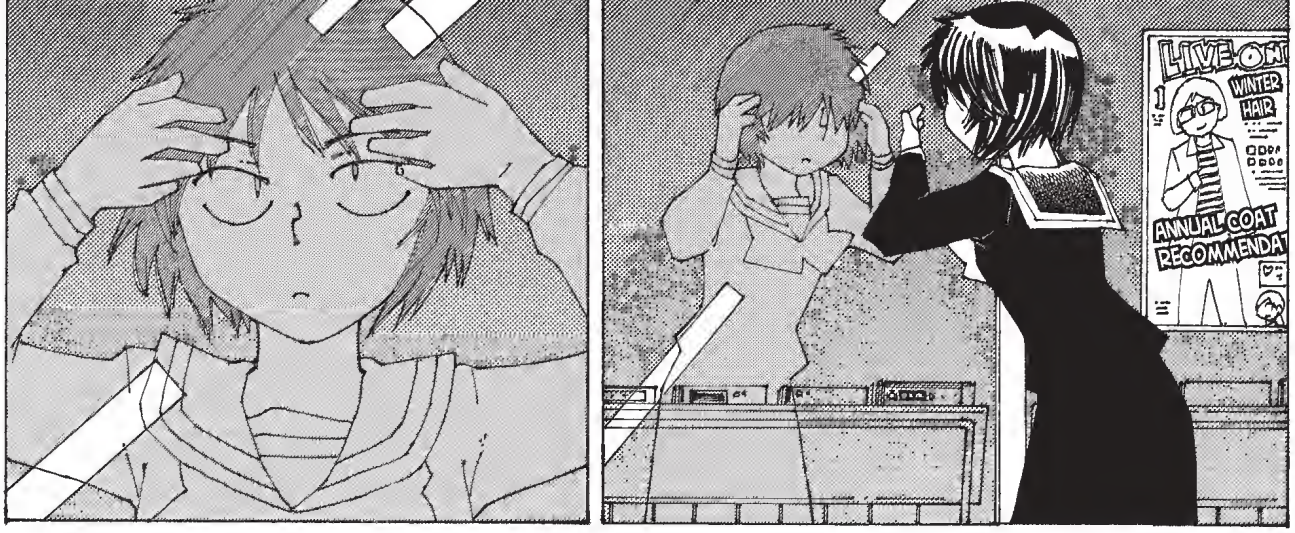
MEET ME AT THE DOWNTOWN STATION TURNSTILES AT 10 A.M. SUNDAY!
IT'S A PROMISE!
I TOOK THE TICKET WITHOUT THINKING!
GAH!
CRAP ...
はっ!
GASP!
ぼ〜っ...
DAAAZE...
SINCE MY GIRLFRIEND HAS SLANTED EYES, DOES THAT MEAN I HAVE NO RESISTANCE AGAINST DROOPY EYES...?
WHEN SHE LOOKED AT ME WITH THOSE EYES, I WENT ALL DIZZY AND SAID YES...
THE POWER OF DROOPY EYES IS TERRIFYING!

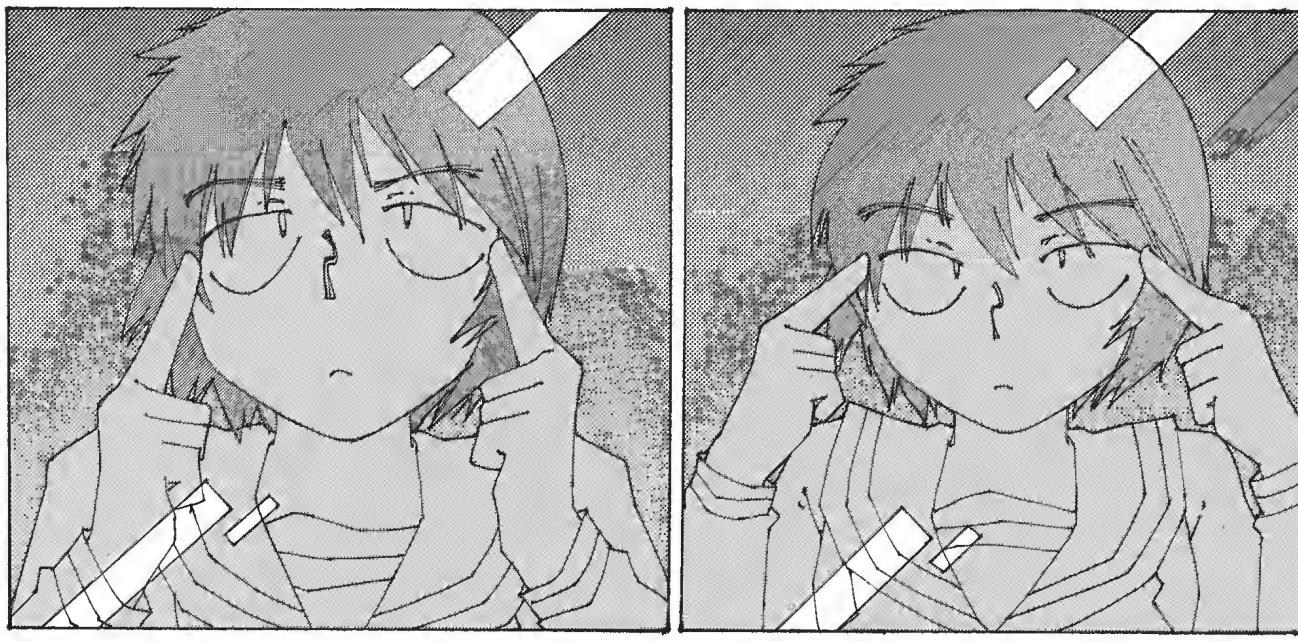
SHIVER...
I HAVE TO RETURN THIS TICKET TO SUWANO TOMORROW! IF URABE FINDS OUT ABOUT THIS, SHE'LL KILL ME...!

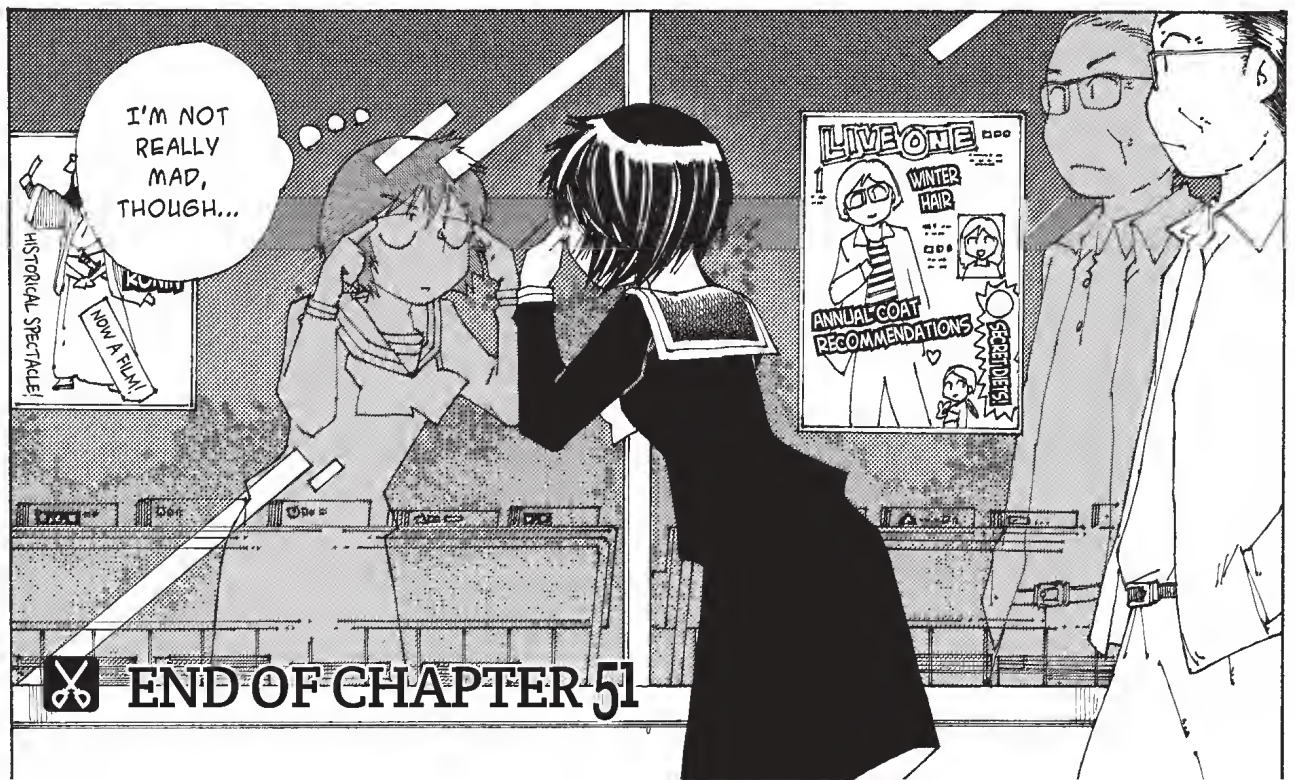
SAKURA
KAZAMIDAI ☆SHOPPING DISTRICT
AKOM
CENTER


THE LAST 47 RONIN
NOW A FILM!


OTSUKOSHI

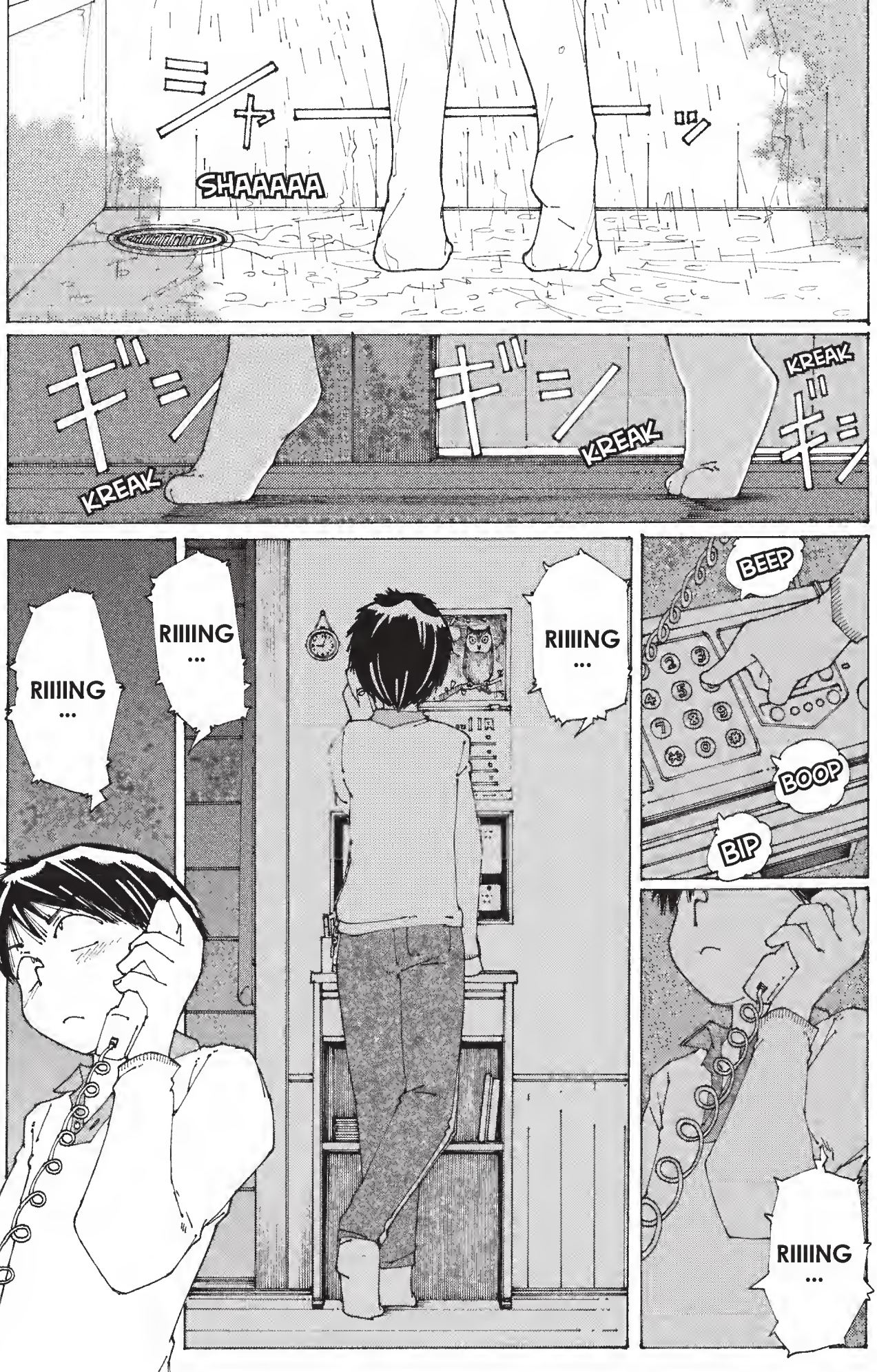




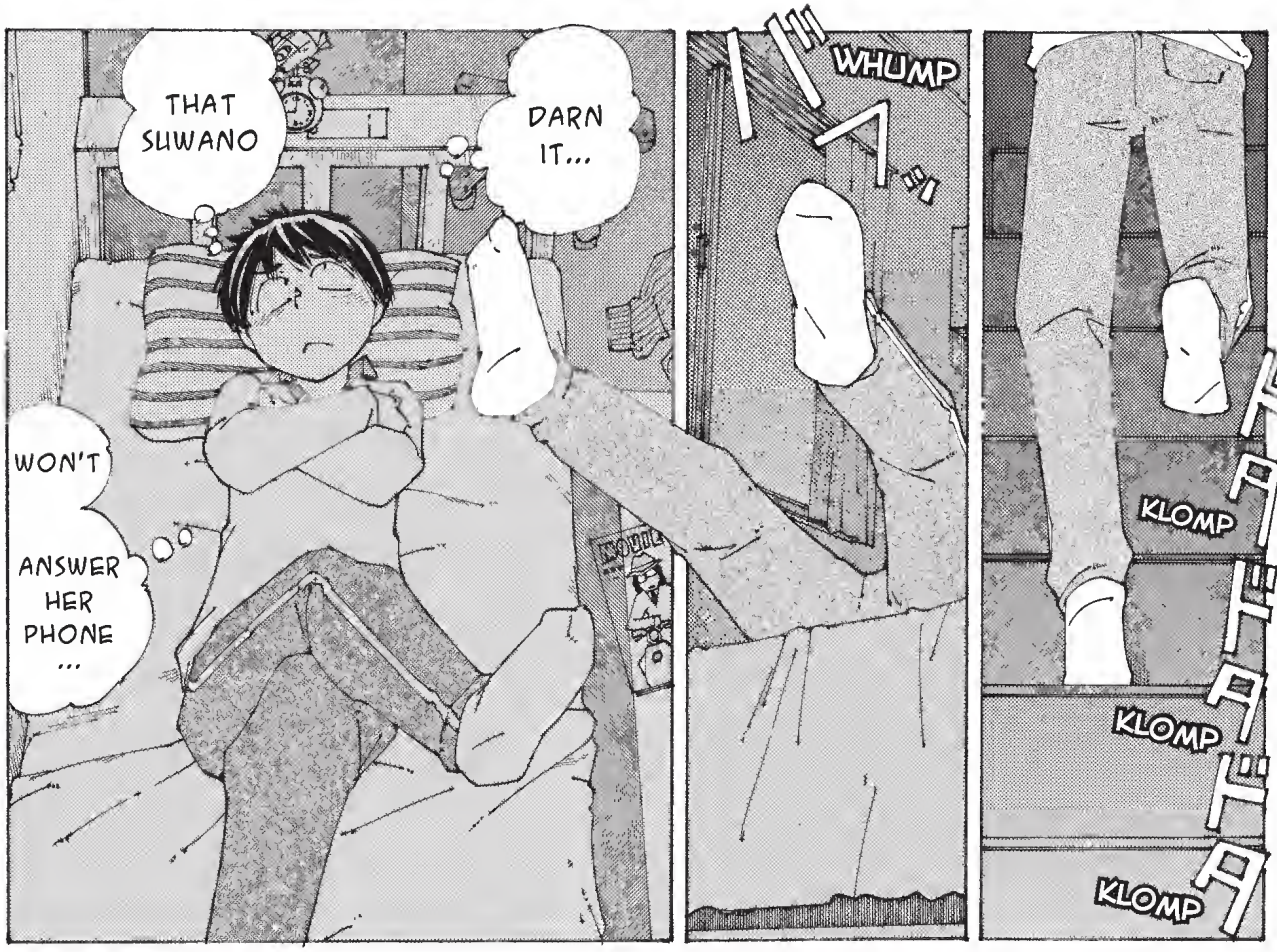


END OF CHAPTER 51

CHAPTER 52: MYSTERIOUS "SLANTED EYES VS. DROOPY EYES" (PART 2)

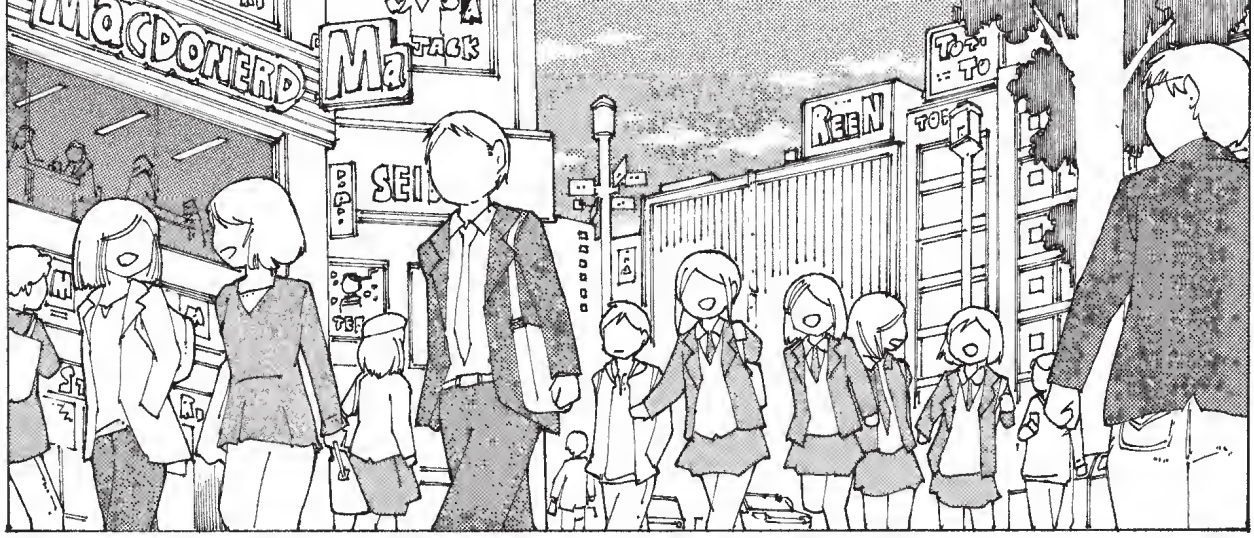

SHAAAAA
KREAK
KREAK
KREAK
RIIIING...
RIIIING...
RIIIING...
BEEP
BOOP
BIP
RIIIING...

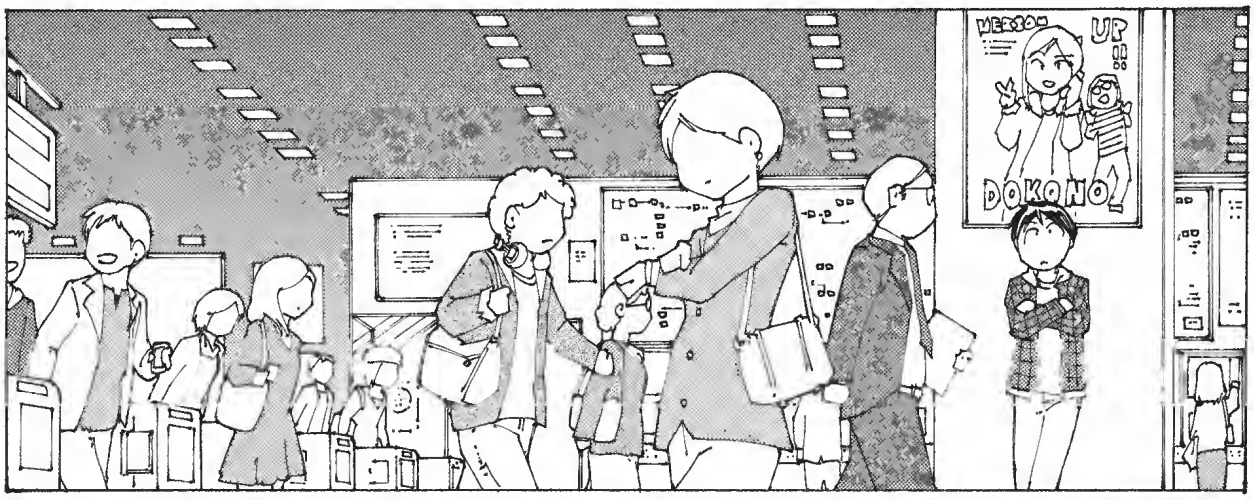
WAH !!
SHANK
AKIRA,
WHO ARE YOU CALLING ?
SLIDE
SQUEAK
I JUST REMEMBERED THAT I NEEDED TO TALK TO HIM!
THAT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT!
WHY DID YOU BOTHER TO WAIT UNTIL I WAS IN THE SHOWER?
IF YOU WERE JUST CALLING UENO,
I WAS CALLING UENO.
HUH ?
UHM ...
I...
LOOKS LIKE HE'S NOT IN.
KRUMPLE
KACHI-NK

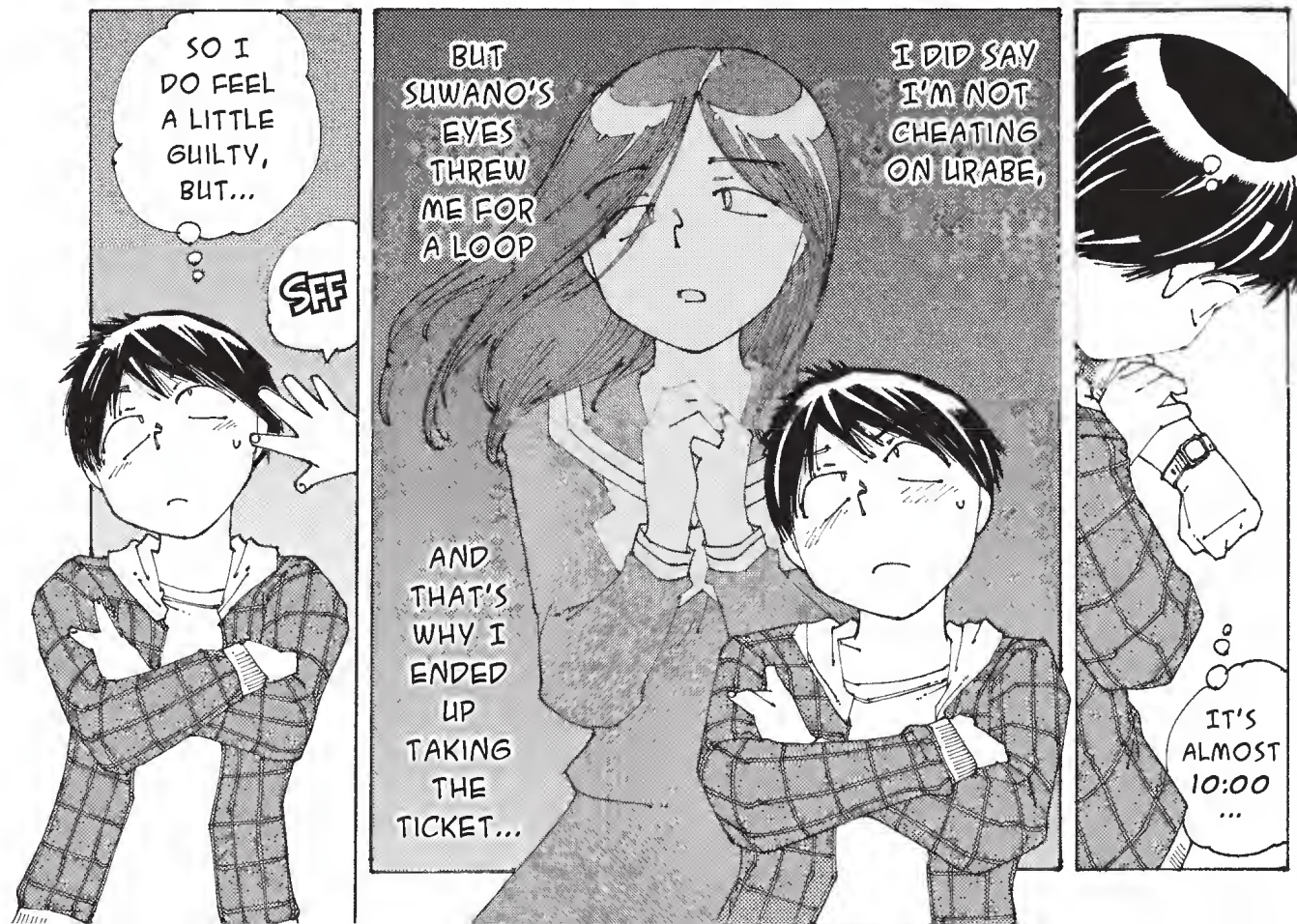

THAT SUWANO
DARN IT...
WHUMP
WON'T ANSWER HER PHONE ...
KLOMP
KLOMP
KLOMP

MEET ME AT THE DOWN-TOWN STATION TURNSTILES AT 10 A.M. SUNDAY!
IT'S A PROMISE!
SHE HASN'T BEEN TO SCHOOL SINCE THAT DAY, AND SHE WON'T ANSWER HER PHONE. SINCE I TOOK THE TICKET FROM HER,
IF I CAN'T RETURN IT TO HER TOMORROW, I'LL JUST HAVE TO MEET HER AT THE STATION ON SUNDAY...

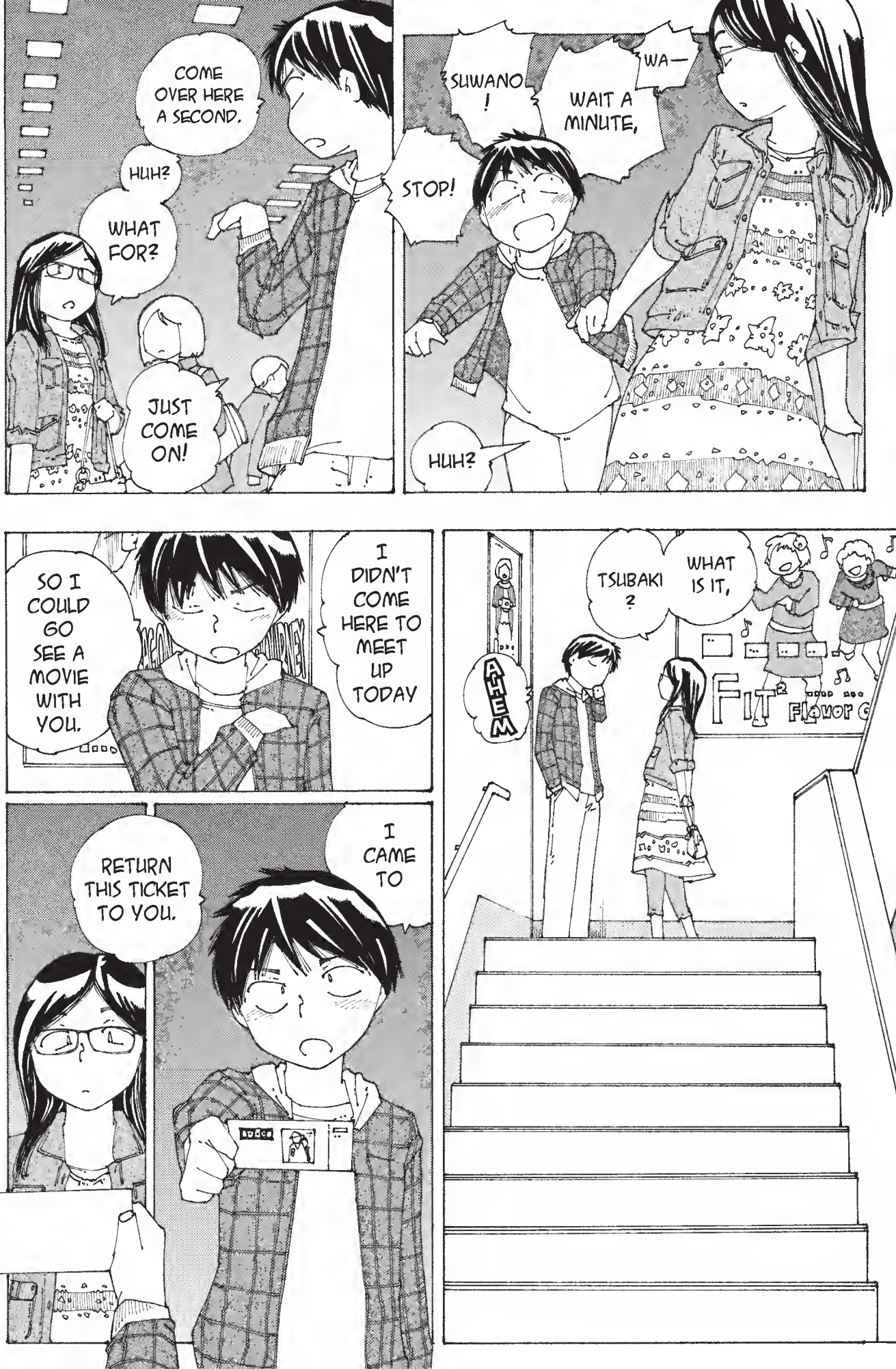
ABSENT AGAIN TODAY...
SUWANO IS
SO I HAVE TO GO TO OUR MEETING PLACE ON SUNDAY...
GLANCE
BUT ONLY TO RETURN THE TICKET.
I'M NOT CHEATING ON YOU, OKAY?


MACDONERD
SEI
REEN

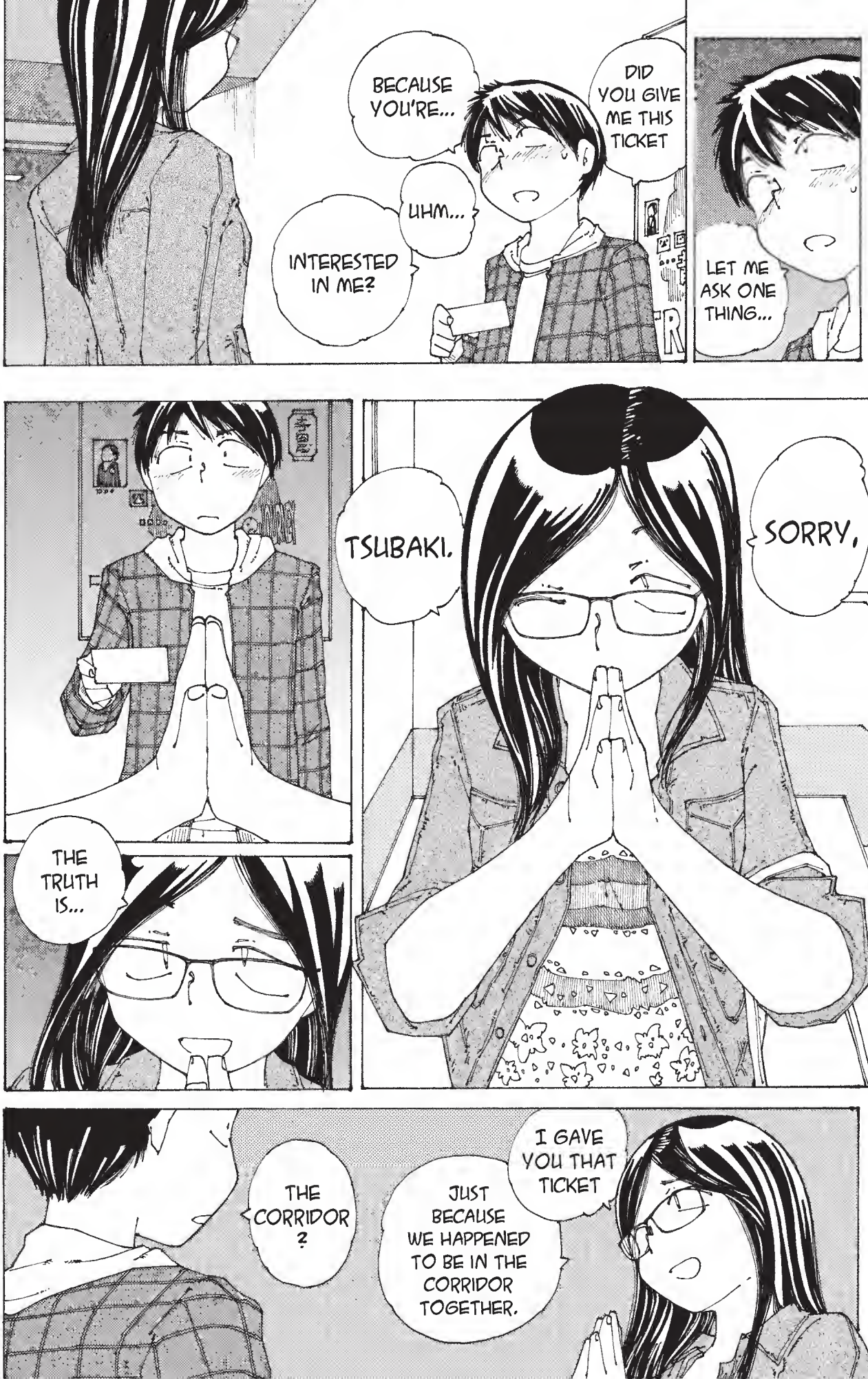

DOKONO


SO I DO FEEL A LITTLE GUILTY, BUT...
SFF
BUT SUWANO'S EYES THREW ME FOR A LOOP
I DID SAY I'M NOT CHEATING ON URABE,
AND THAT'S WHY I ENDED UP TAKING THE TICKET...
IT'S ALMOST 10:00 ...

DID YOU WAIT LONG?
WHOA!
TSUBAKI!
PAAH
I'M REALLY GLAD YOU KEPT YOUR PROMISE.
I WAS A LITTLE WORRIED THAT YOU WOULDN'T COME.
SUWANO...
AH...
TUG
WELL, READY TO GO?


COME OVER HERE A SECOND.
HUH?
WHAT FOR?
JUST COME ON!
SUWANO!
WAIT A MINUTE,
WA—
STOP!
HUH?
SO I COULD GO SEE A MOVIE WITH YOU.
I DIDN'T COME HERE TO MEET UP TODAY
RETURN THIS TICKET TO YOU.
I CAME TO
TSUBAKI?
WHAT IS IT,
ATTEM
FIT

SO...
THERE'S A REASON WHY I CAN'T GO SEE A MOVIE WITH YOU...
THE THING IS,
I SAID I WOULD GO WITHOUT REALLY THINKING.
A GIRLFRIEND RIGHT NOW.
I HAVE
WHAT REASON IS THAT?
A REA-SON?
WELL, IT'S...
HUH?
I'M GIVING THIS TICKET BACK.
SO, EVEN THOUGH YOU GAVE IT TO ME,
IT WOULD COUNT AS A DATE, RIGHT?
SINCE I HAVE A GIRLFRIEND, I CAN'T DO THAT.
IF I GO SEE THIS MOVIE WITH YOU,


LET ME ASK ONE THING...
DID YOU GIVE ME THIS TICKET
BECAUSE YOU'RE...
UHM...
INTERESTED IN ME?
SORRY,
TSUBAKI.
THE TRUTH IS...
I GAVE YOU THAT TICKET
JUST BECAUSE WE HAPPENED TO BE IN THE CORRIDOR TOGETHER.
THE CORRIDOR ?

HE MIGHT THINK I'D FOUND SOMEONE NEW AND GIVE UP ON ME...
IN A PLACE CLEARLY VISIBLE FROM THE SPORTS FIELD,
I THOUGHT IF I GAVE YOU THE TICKET
...
DON'T "TEE HEE" ♥ ME!
YOU JUST USED ME AS A DECOY ?!
ON THE FIELD AT THAT MOMENT WAS MY EX.
TEE HEE ♥
ONE OF THE GUYS ON THE TEAM RUNNING BY
RIGHT.
SO YOU MEAN...
HUH?
HUH ?!
N— NOT AT ALL!
YOU'RE DISAP-POINTED ?
DOES THAT MEAN
HM?
NOW I GET IT...
WELL THAT'S WHY IT WAS SO WEIRD...

IF WE GO ON THAT DATE TODAY...
THE FACT THAT I INVITED YOU TO A MOVIE
MEANS THAT I WAS A LITTLE INTER-ESTED.
BUT YOU NEVER KNOW...
DON'T ...
DON'T JOKE ABOUT THAT!
FALL IN LOVE WITH YOU
I MIGHT JUST
FOR REAL, TSUBAKI.
I CAN'T ACCEPT THIS.
ANY-WAY,
HERE!
I SEE...

HEY,
WHAT IS
YOUR GIRLFRIEND LIKE?
WHAT'S SHE LIKE?
LIKE, UNIQUE TRAITS,
AND SUCH.
THE EXACT OPPOSITE OF YOU.
EXACT OPPOSITE?
YOUR EYES ARE MORE
THE DROOPY TYPE,
RIGHT?
HUH?
ARE THEY?

SHE'S YOUR EXACT OPPOSITE!
SO
AH HA HA HA ...
HAS SLANTED EYES.
BUT MY GIRL-FRIEND
IT FEELS A LITTLE LIKE A WASTED CHANCE...
HON-ESTLY ...
SEE YOU AT SCHOOL!
SURE.
BUT I'M GLAD YOU CAME TODAY ANYWAY.
IT'S A SHAME WE CAN'T SEE THE MOVIE TOGETHER,
SHE'S BEEN MISSING SCHOOL ...
OH, I FORGOT TO ASK HER WHY

HUH?
WELL, SHOOT...
THERE'S A TRUCK PARKED AT OUR USUAL SPOT.

OH, WELL.
LET'S GO TO THE PARK FOR TODAY.
RUSTLE RUSTLE
SHLP
MEOW.
THE CAT FROM BEFORE!
AH!

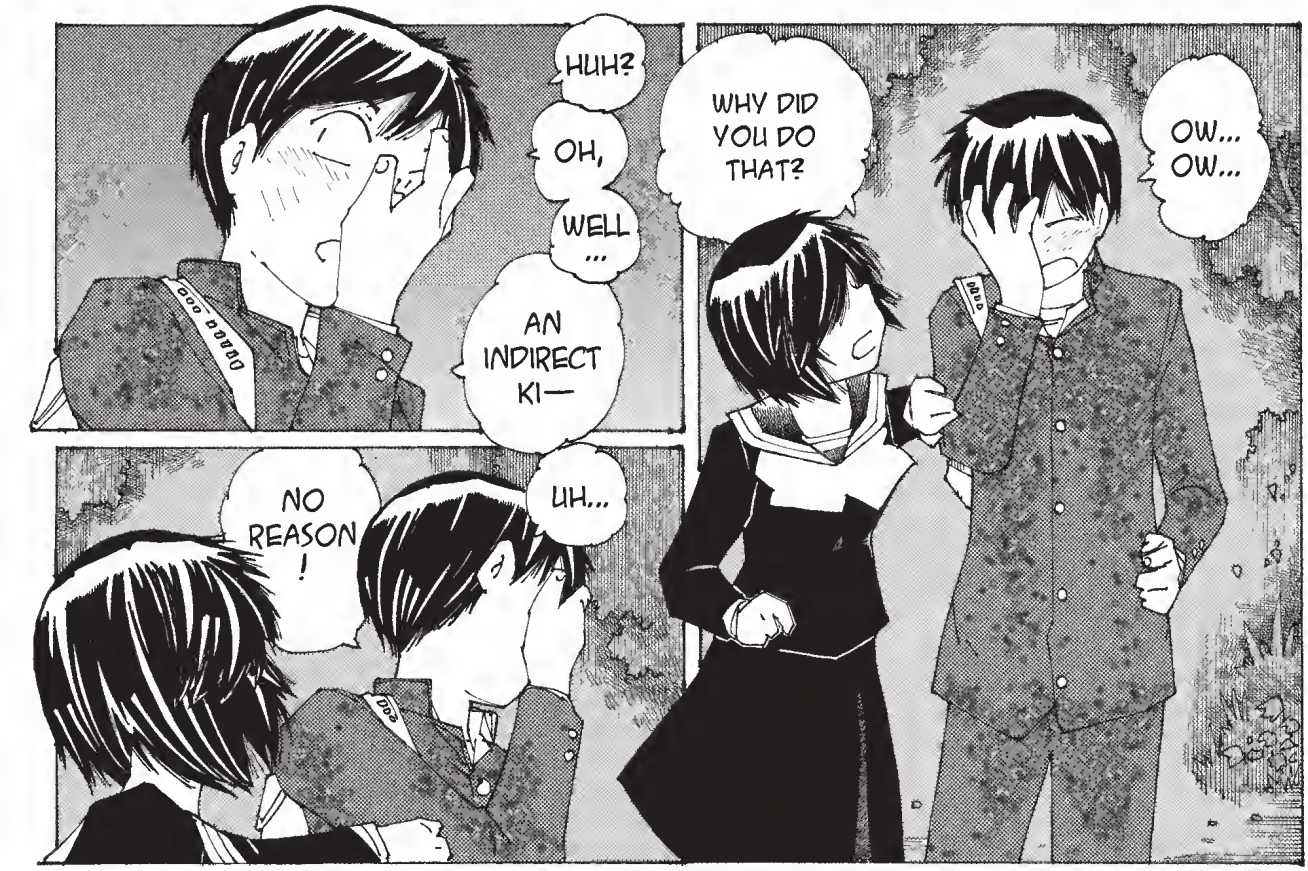
MEOW.
MEOW.
MELON BUN

LOOK SORT OF LIKE A CAT'S EYES...
URABE'S SLANTED EYES...
ACTUALLY...
MAYBE I PREFER SLANTED EYES...
MAKES ME THINK ...
OF COURSE, DROOPY EYES ARE CUTE, TOO, BUT...
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE SHE'S SO DIFFERENT FROM HER USUAL SELF... BUT SEEING HER SMILE INNOCENTLY LIKE THIS...
MELON

AH...!
HEY ...
JUST A SECOND!
I'LL GIVE YOU SOME!
TICK
I LOVE CATS, TOO.
URABE...
OKAY...
I ESPECIALLY LOVE CATS' EYES.
AND

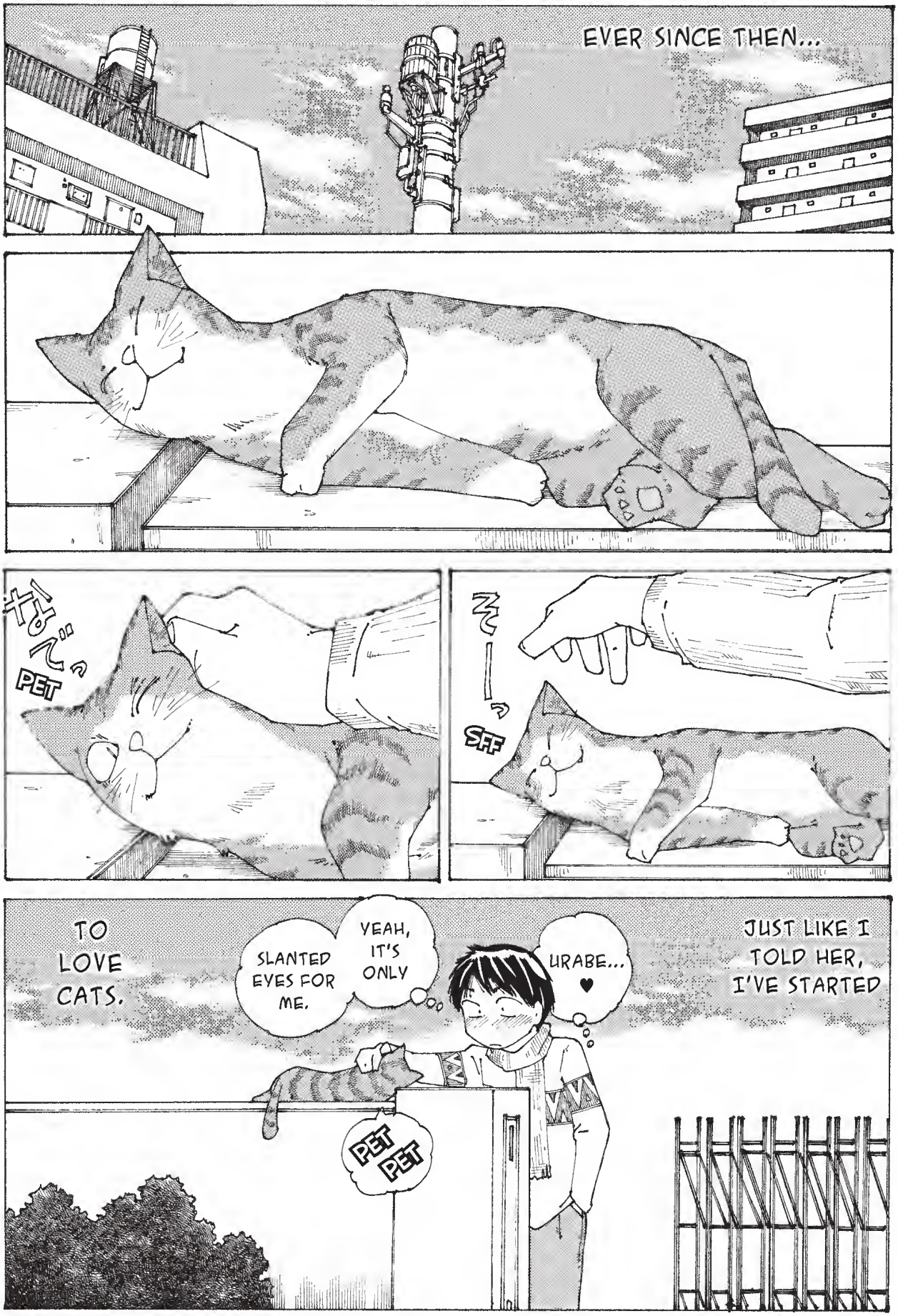
LIFT
MMMM...
WAIT ...
TSUBAKI...

MROWR !
KLAW
KLAW
OW!
OUCH ...
LEAP
TSUBAKI !
ARE YOU OKAY ?!
DASH


OW... OW...
WHY DID YOU DO THAT?
HUH?
OH, WELL ...
AN INDIRECT KI—
UH...
NO REASON!

LICK

DUMMY!
THUP
THUP
THAT SHE'S LICKED MY FACE.
THAT'S TWICE NOW
IS URABE REALLY A CAT?
DASH



END OF CHAPTER 52

NEW CHARACTER

RYOUKO SUWANO (17)

SHE DOESN'T WEAR GLASSES AT SCHOOL, BUT SHE WEARS THEM ON HER OWN TIME.

DON'T YOU THINK A GIRL WHO DROOLS WHEN SHE FALLS ASLEEP IS CUTE?
WELL, THIS IS A COMIC ABOUT THAT SORT OF GIRL.
ZZZ...
寿
ZZZ...

MYSTERIOUS GIRLFRIEND X

VERTICAL COMICS

MYSTERIOUS GIRLFRIEND X

RIICHI UESHIBA

MYSTERIOUS GIRLFRIEND X

Characters

Ayuko Oka (17)

At 4'8", she's very small, but her figure is well-developed and quite gorgeous. She is Ueno's girlfriend. She often toys with Urabe through her impish personality. Like Tsubaki, she is responsive to Urabe's drool.

Kouhei Ueno (17)

Tsubaki's best friend. He's been going out with their classmate, Oka, since they were sophomores. Ueno's fond way of talking about Oka frequently influences Tsubaki's ideas about relationships.

Youko Tsubaki (24)

Akira's sister, seven years his senior. She handles all the housework in place of their mother, who died when they were young. Akira is highly indebted to her.

Ryouko Suwano (17)

Tsubaki's classmate who shares his class duties. Her drooping eyes are her most charming feature. She knows Tsubaki has a girlfriend, though she doesn't know that it's Urabe.

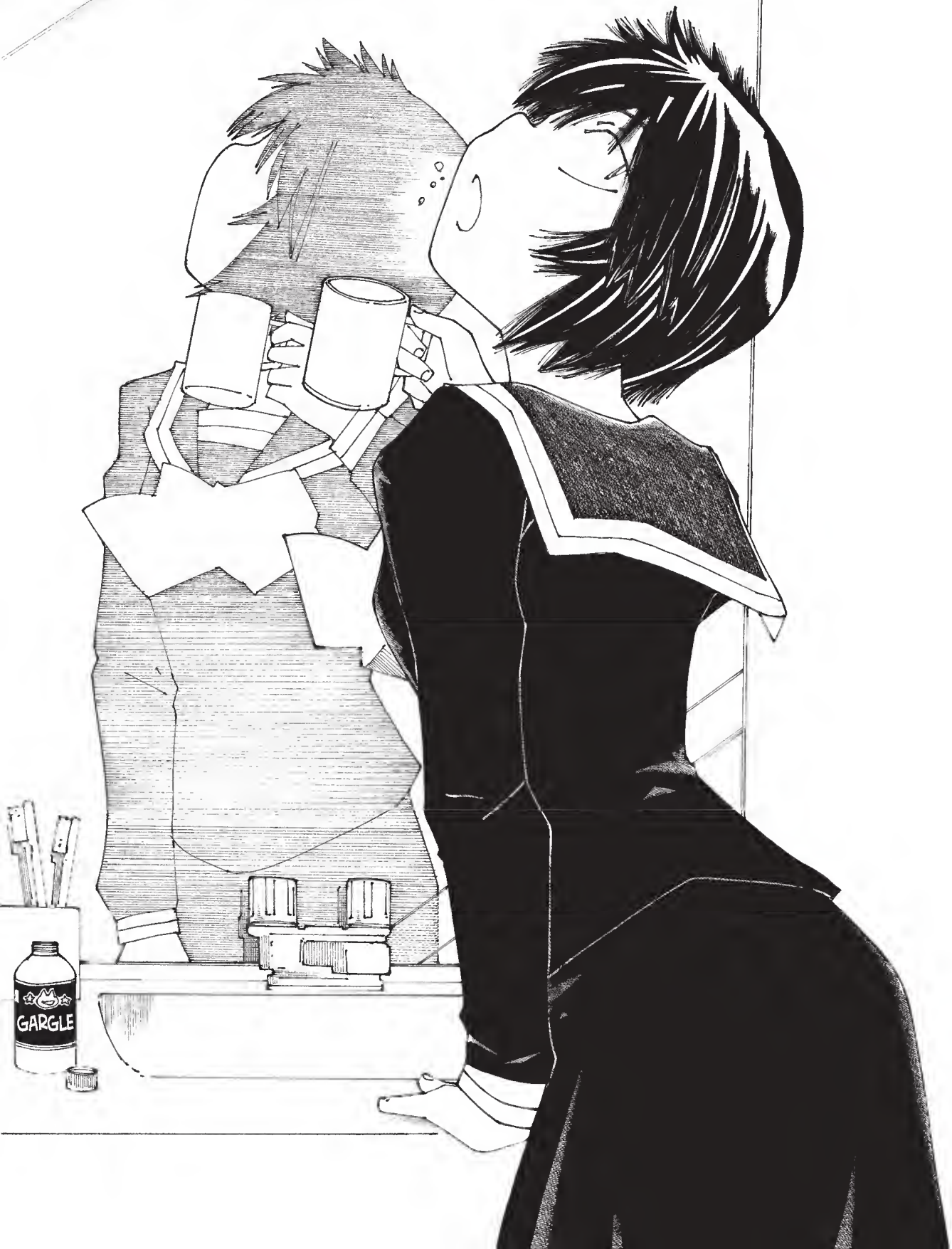
Mikoto Urabe (17)

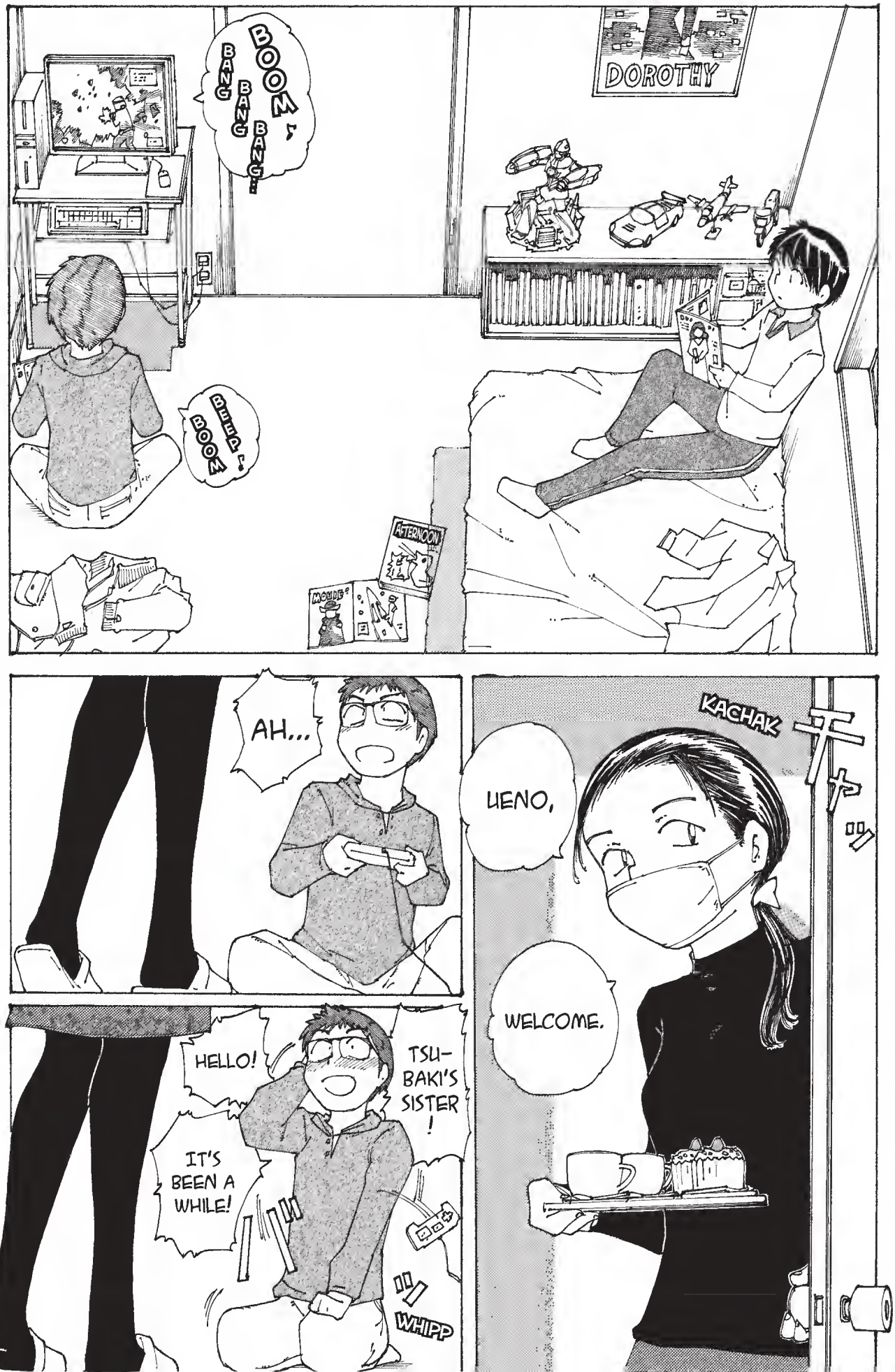
A transfer student who joined Tsubaki's class. She can convey her own feelings through her drool, as well as pick up on Tsubaki's feelings through his. She's antisocial and everything she says and does is mysterious, but her ideas about love are very pure. Her hobby is using scissors, which she can use to cut up anything.

Akira Tsubaki (17)

The protagonist of the story. His bizarre relationship with Urabe began after he licked her drool one day. He is as interested in girls as any boy his age, but Urabe takes the lead in their relationship and Tsubaki can't seem to initiate any progress between them.

CHAPTER 53: MYSTERIOUS COLD

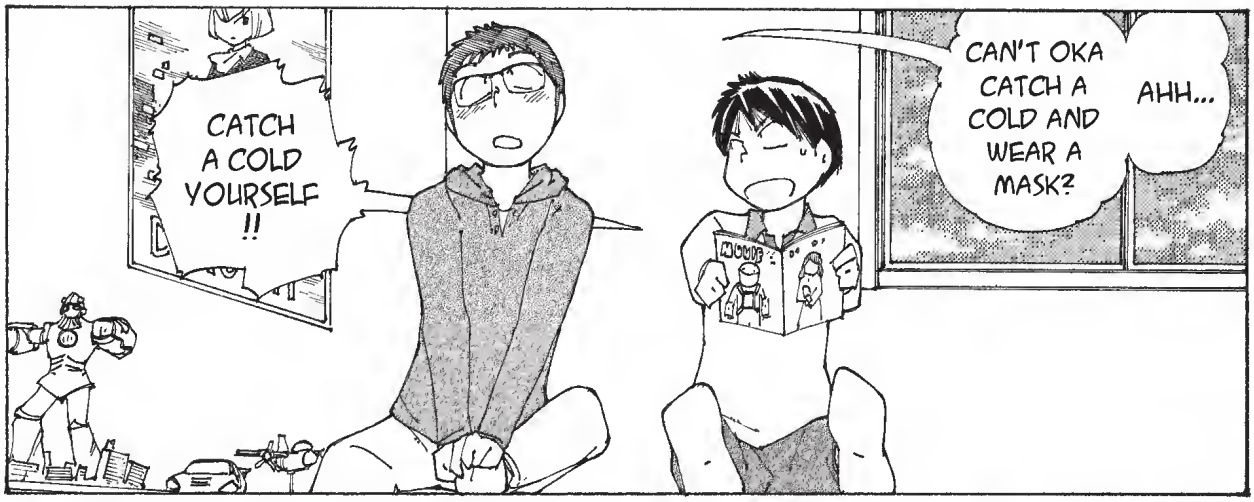


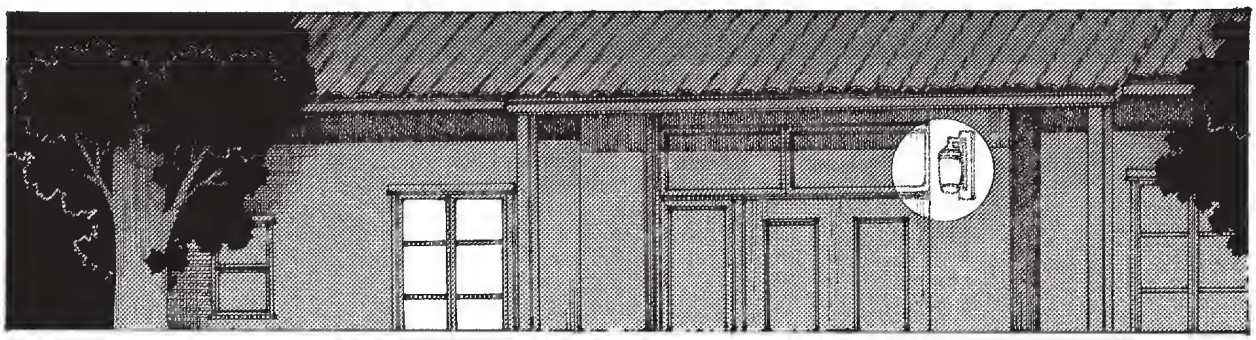

BOOM ♪
BANG BANG BANG..
DOROTHY
BEEP ♪
BOOM
AFTERNOON
MOVIE
AH...
KACHAK
UENO,
WELCOME.
HELLO!
TSU-
BAKI'S
SISTER
!
IT'S
BEEN A
WHILE!
WHIPP

DO YOU
OH...
HAVE A COLD?
AH HA HA HA...
NAH ...
FOR ALWAYS PUTTING UP WITH AKIRA.
THANK YOU
AKIRA !
AT LEAST GET UENO A CUSHION!
HUH?
MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME.
WELL,
EH HEH HEH.
THANKS.
PLEASE TAKE CARE!
I'VE HEARD THAT
THIS YEAR'S COLD CAN GET BAD IF YOU'RE NOT CAREFUL!
I CAME DOWN WITH A FEVER LAST NIGHT.
YEAH.
OH, THIS?
A SLIGHT ONE, THOUGH.

YOUR SISTER IS SO GORGEOUS!
TSUBAKI!
PASS ME THE CAKE YOUKO BROUGHT UP...
HEY, UENO.
DAAAAZE
BTAM
HUH?
MOVIE FUN
NOW ON SALE

I'VE ALWAYS HAD A CRUSH ON HER...
AND ACTUALLY...
I KINDA LIKE THE WAY GIRLS LOOK WEARING MASKS WHEN THEY HAVE A COLD.
WHEN THEY'RE FLUSHED WITH FEVER...
AND THEIR EYES LOOK GLASSY...
IT'S KINDA SEXY.
WHAT?
KNOCK IT OFF.
MAN, I GOT TO SEE YOUKO IN A MASK!
TODAY IS A GOOD DAY ♥
YOUKO TSUBAKI
24
CUT IT OUT!
DON'T CALL HER YOUKO!!
MOVIE FUN
NOW ON SALE


CATCH A COLD YOURSELF !!
CAN'T OKA CATCH A COLD AND WEAR A MASK?
AHH...
MOUTH



PRESI-DENT OBAMA RE-SPONDED BY...
JAPAN/U.S. COOPERATION
NEWS

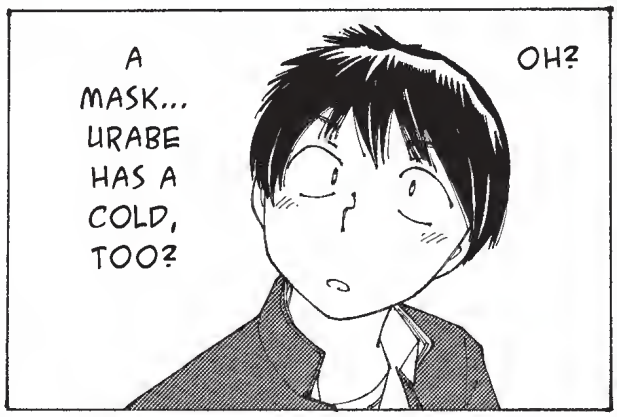
YAWN...
AH...
MNAH...
OH, NO!
THAT WAS BAD!
KLAP
I JUST MADE A MESSY FACE WHEN I YAWNED...
WHAT'S WRONG, YOUKO?
?

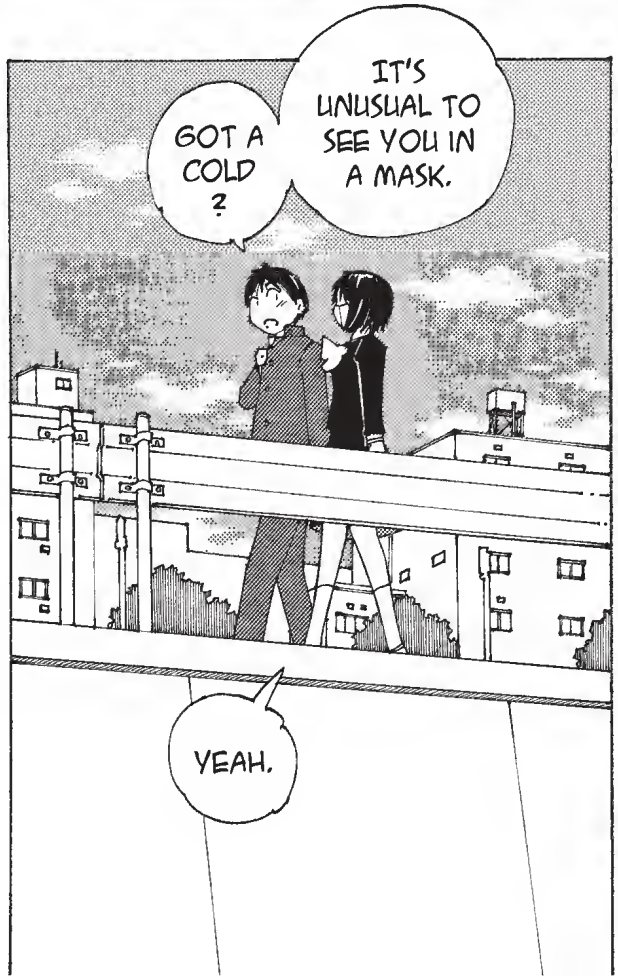
HUH...
IS THAT HOW IT WORKS?
WITH THE MASK ON, I KNOW HALF OF MY FACE IS COVERED,
SO I LET MY GUARD DOWN...
I HAVE TO BE MORE CAREFUL!

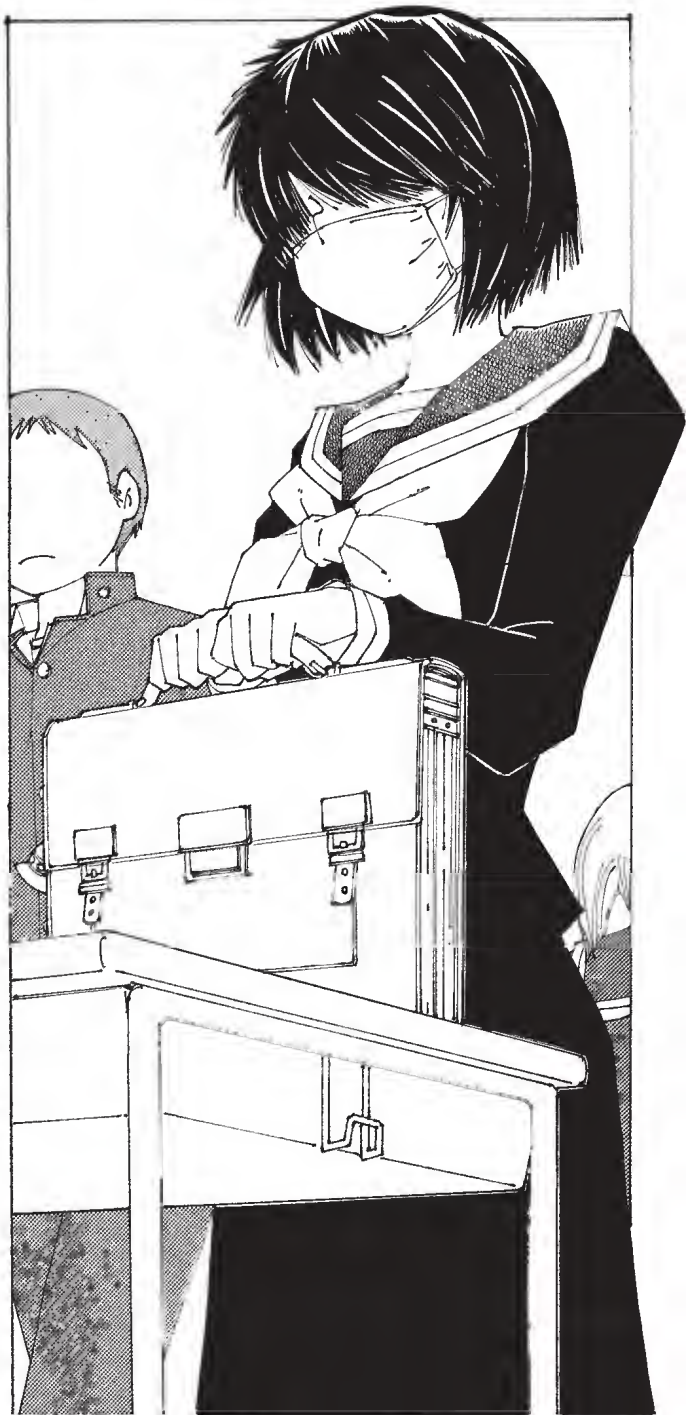
I DON'T THINK YOU NEED TO WORRY...
I REALLY NEED TO BE CAREFUL!
IF I GET USED TO THAT,
I'LL END UP MAKING SUCH A FACE EVEN WHEN I DON'T HAVE A MASK ON.
WHY NOT?
HUH?

SNAP
THAT'S NOT TRUE!!
I DON'T THINK YOU NEED TO WORRY ABOUT IT NOW.
YOU ALWAYS WATCH TV WITH A REALLY SPACED-OUT MESSY FACE, ANYWAY.

WHUNK


A MASK... URABE HAS A COLD, TOO?
OH?

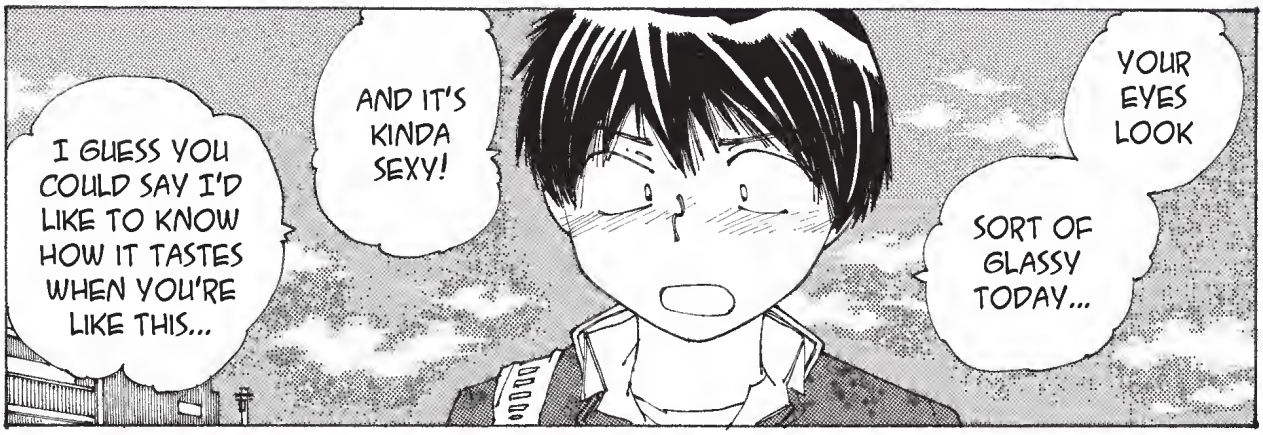

GOT A COLD ?
IT'S UNUSUAL TO SEE YOU IN A MASK.
YEAH.

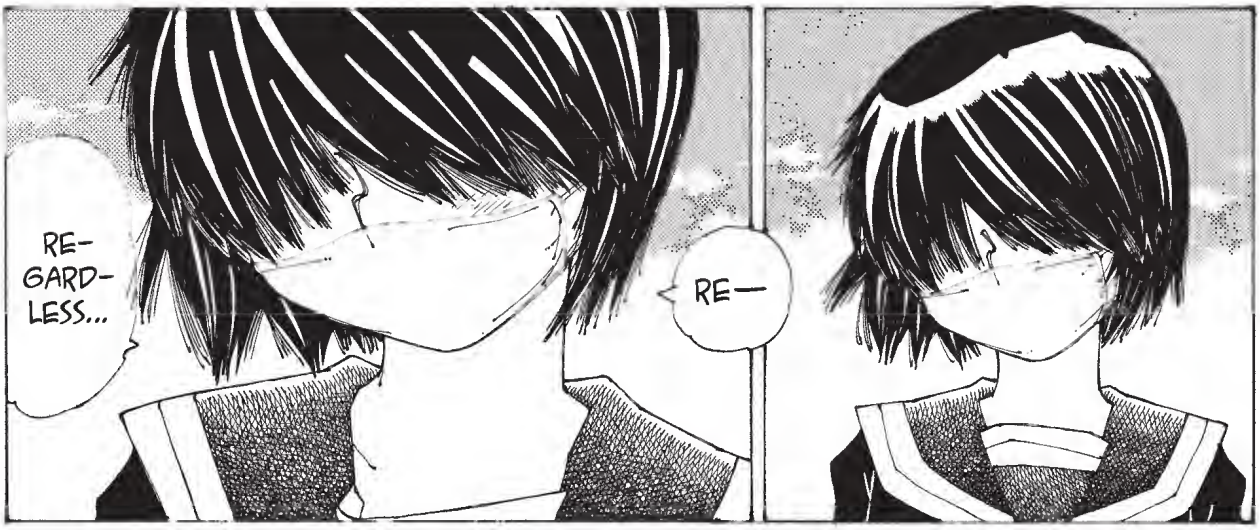


WHOOSH
I HAD A FEVER LAST NIGHT.
OH...
YOU GOTTA BE CAREFUL.
IT'S MOSTLY DOWN NOW, THOUGH...
WHOOO
WHOA...
AH...

WHAT WAS THAT LOOK ON HER FACE?!
HUH?!
SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW.
BYE, TSUBAKI.
IT LOOKED LIKE A REALLY SEXY EXPRESSION...
I KINDA LIKE THE WAY GIRLS LOOK WEARING MASKS WHEN THEY HAVE A COLD.
WHEN THEY'RE FLUSHED WITH FEVER...
AND THEIR EYES LOOK GLASSY...
I DON'T WANT TO GIVE YOU MY COLD.
OUR DAILY ROUTINE TODAY!
BY THE WAY,
WE WON'T DO
I THINK
I KNOW EXACTLY
WHAT UENO WAS TALKING ABOUT...!

HUH?
REALLY MIND CATCHING YOUR COLD...
I WOULDN'T ...
IF IT'S OUR "DAILY ROUTINE," I THINK WE SHOULD DO IT EVERY DAY.
THAT DEPENDS ON THE SITUATION!
ACTUALLY, I...
WHA...
NO WAY.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
I WOULDN'T MIND CATCHING A COLD IF IT WAS YOURS!
WELL, THEY SAY GIVING SOMEONE YOUR COLD CURES YOU, RIGHT?
I REALLY WANT TO TASTE YOUR DROOL TODAY!!
E!!
JUMP


YOUR EYES LOOK SORT OF GLASSY TODAY...
AND IT'S KINDA SEXY!
I GUESS YOU COULD SAY I'D LIKE TO KNOW HOW IT TASTES WHEN YOU'RE LIKE THIS...


RE—
RE-GARD-LESS...

...NO?
NO!

IF I GAVE YOU MY COLD,
IT COULD END UP MAKING YOU REALLY SICK,
SO NOT TODAY !!

TH-
THEN...
LET ME SEE YOU WITHOUT YOUR MASK INSTEAD.
HUH?
I WANT TO SEE YOUR FACE
WHEN YOU HAVE A COLD, WITHOUT THE MASK ON...
WHAT ...?
NO!!
NO WAY! NO WAY!
UNDER THIS MASK ...
MY FACE LOOKS
LIKE A MESS RIGHT NOW!
SO, NO!
WHAT ?!
HER FACE IS A MESS?
SEE YOU,
TSUBAKI.

I WANT TO SEE...
SORRY
URABE.
SFF
WHAT!
DON'T !!
HEY...
TSUBAKI —
YOUR MESSY FACE!
TUG
SWIFF

KLAP
URABE ...
YOU HAVE DROOL ON YOUR CHIN...
BECAUSE YOU SAID...

THAT YOU WANTED
TO TASTE MY DROOL SO BADLY...
SO IT JUST NATURALLY SPILLED OUT...
URABE ...
WHAT.
YOUR MESSY FACE
LOOKS KINDA CUTE...
BLUUUUUSH
ZOOM
BA
DARN IT!!
VWOOSH
WHOA ...
I-I'M SORRY...
PANTY SCISSORS?!
URA—

CRAP...
OH...
GRAB
WHAP
YOU'RE WEARING ...
URABE...
AH...

END OF CHAPTER 53

CHAPTER 54: MYSTERIOUS MAN'S DREAM

IT BEGAN ONE DAY IN WINTER,
AS WE WERE TALKING ABOUT THE LAKE IN THE PARK ON THE WAY HOME FROM SCHOOL.
URABE,
DID YOU KNOW...
THAT THERE'S A LAKE IN THE PARK WE WALK BY AFTER SCHOOL?
THAT LAKE FREEZES OVER DURING THE COLD SEASON.
REALLY?
I'D LIKE TO SEE IT...
OKAY.
LET'S STOP BY, THEN.

THE ICE LOOKS PRETTY THICK.
SEE? JUST LIKE I SAID!
WOW... YOU'RE RIGHT, IT'S FROZEN OVER...
IT'LL BE FINE.
NOOOO!!
MAYBE I'LL TRY PUTTING JUST A LITTLE WEIGHT ON IT...
THERE'S NO WAY!
NO WAY! NO WAY!
A PERSON COULDN'T STAND ON IT, RIGHT?
MY CENTER OF GRAVITY IS STILL ON THE GROUND.
IT'S DANGER-OUS!!
YOU CAN'T!
IT'S NOT THAT THICK, SO DON'T TRY IT!

KREAK
WHAT IF YOU ACCIDENTALLY FALL THROUGH ?!
YOU ...
YOU CAN'T!
I WANT TO CRACK THE ICE
AND SEE HOW THICK IT IS.
URABE'S BEING RECKLESS TODAY...
DASH
URABE!
ARE YOU OKAY?!
GRAB
I'M FINE...
I TOLD YOU, MY CENTER OF GRAVITY IS ON THE GROUND...
AH...
BA
KRAKK

AH...
EVEN SO, THERE'S STILL A CHANCE YOU COULD FALL THROUGH ...
UH...
HUH?
AAGH !!
THAT WAS A FORCE MAJEURE !!
ZSSH
ZSSH
ZSSH
ZSSH
WHIRL
I DIDN'T MEAN TO!
URA —

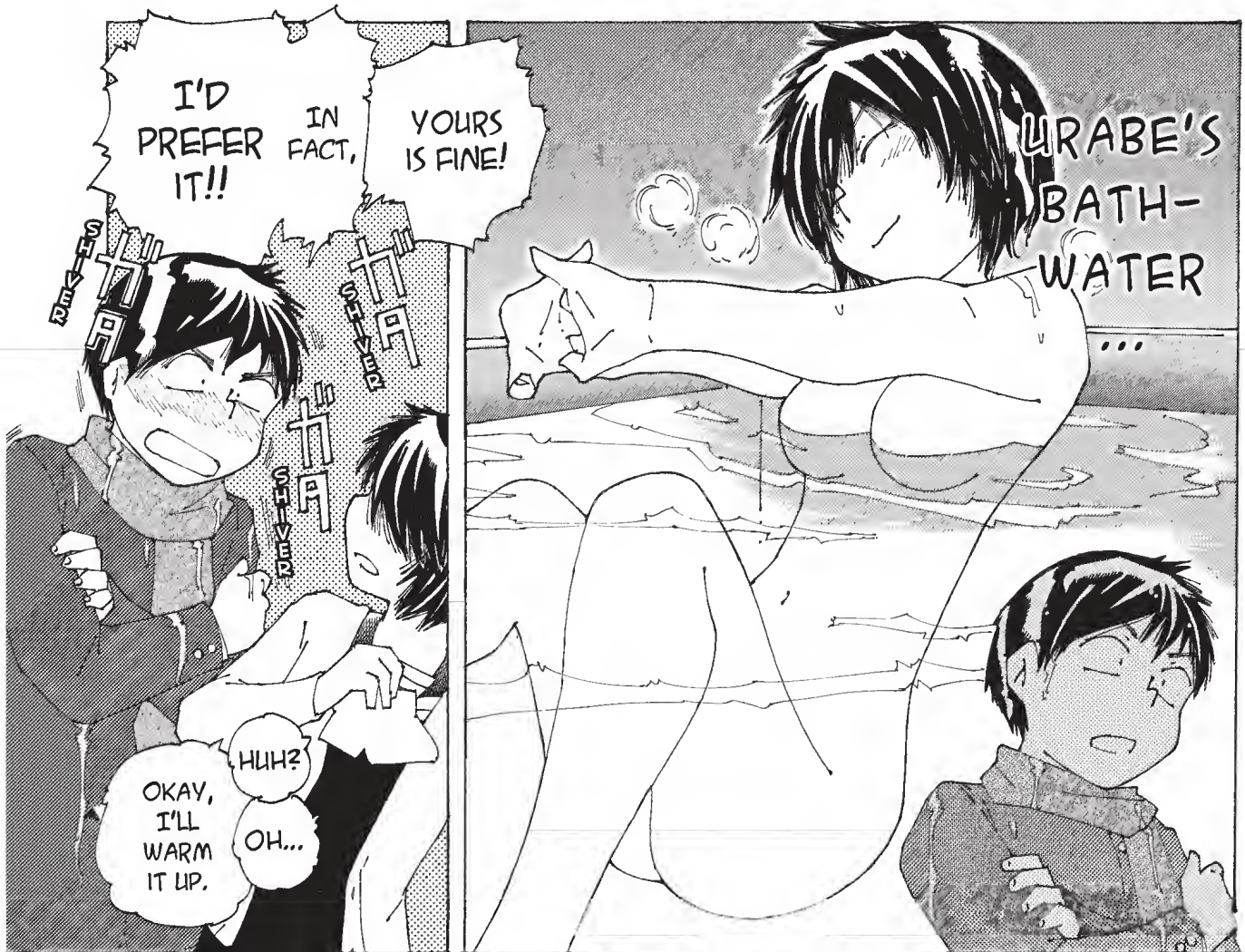
SNIP
SNIP
SNIP
SNIP
SHATTER
TSUBAKI.
DON'T EVER TOUCH MY CHEST WITHOUT ...
MY...
WOBBLE
NO FISHING

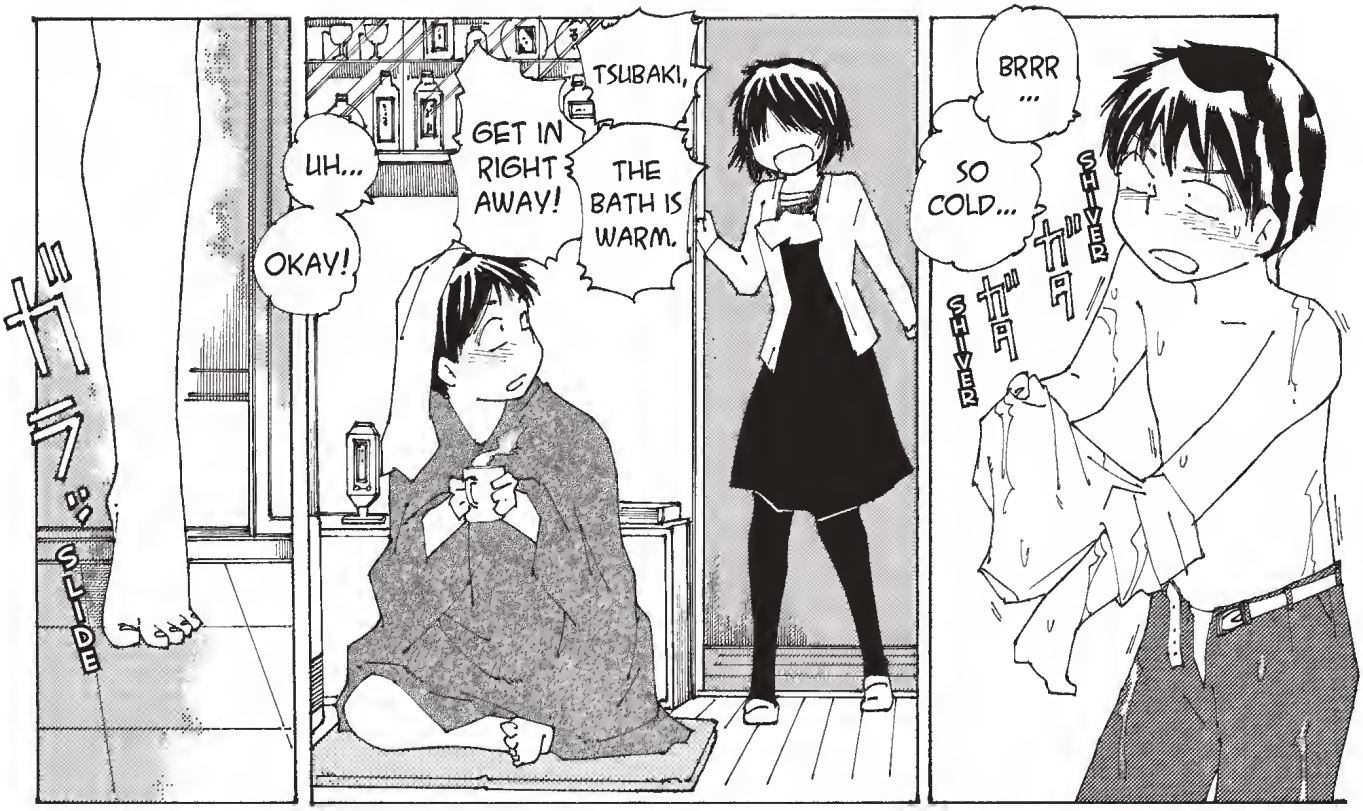
TSUBAKI !!
DASH!!
WHA?
TOP
PLE
AH!
KA
TSUBAKI !!
SPLASH!!
GRAB
SLIP

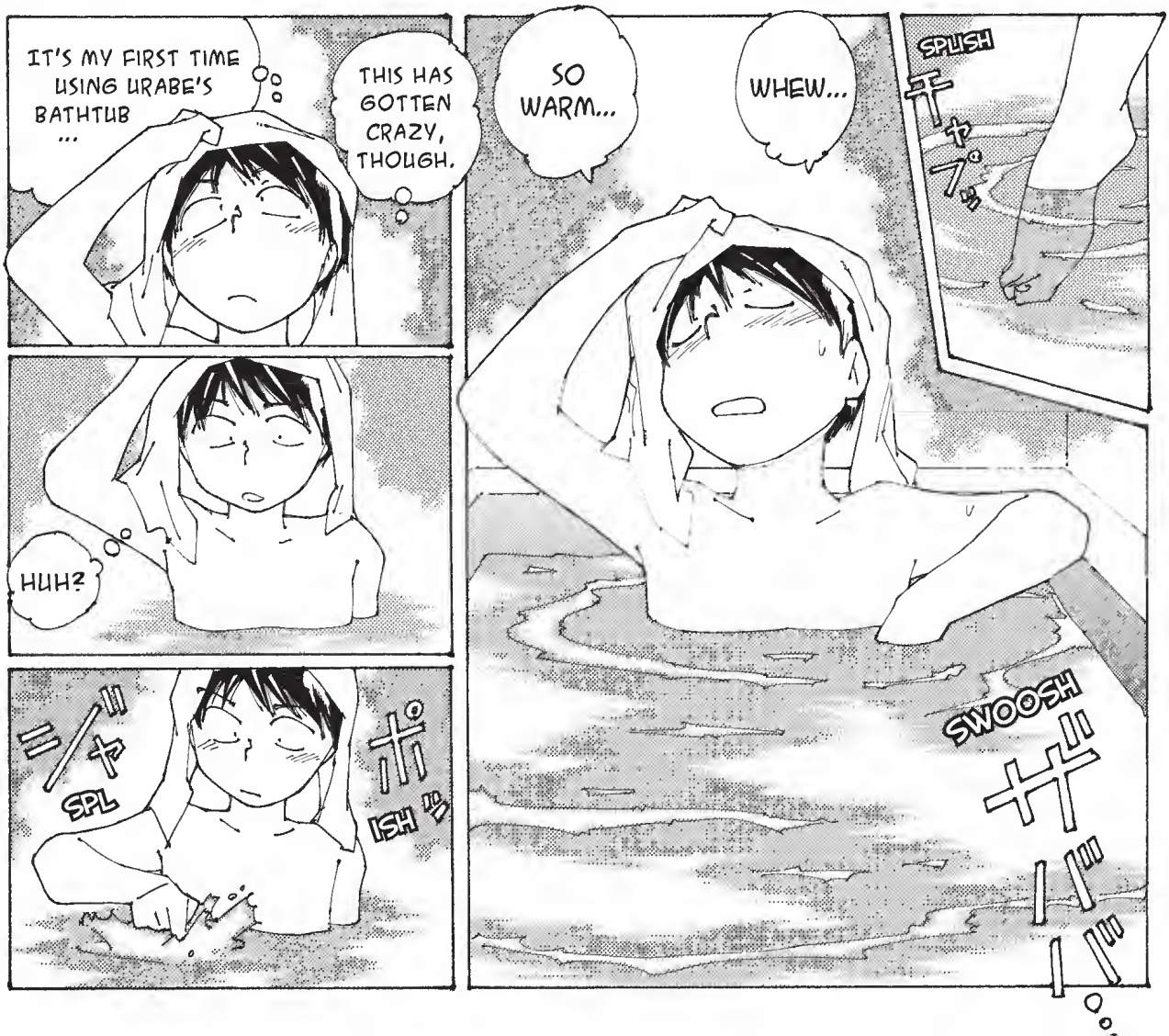
GET OUT!! GET OUT!!
QU...
QUICK!
ARE YOU OKAY?!!
TSUBAKI !!
AH-CHOO!!
IT'S MY FAULT FOR TOUCHING ...
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.
MY PLACE IS CLOSER TO HERE
WE HAVE TO GET YOU CHANGED AND WARMED UP...
THAN YOURS, RIGHT?
AH ...
CHEST ...
YOUR ...
AH ...
I...
I'M SO SORRY!
I'M SOAKED FROM HEAD TO TOE...
WHOA,
EVEN THOUGH THE LAKE WAS RIGHT BEHIND YOU...
I USED MY SCISSORS

TSUBAKI!
LET'S GO TO MY PLACE!
HUH?
UH...
OKAY!
KACHAK
KACHAK
HERE!
COME ON IN!
SHIVER
SHIVER
OH...
OKAY...
WHIRRRR
KLIK
LOW
MEDIUM
HIGH
TAKE OFF THOSE CLOTHES
AND WRAP UP IN THIS BLANKET FOR NOW!
UNK
WH

I'LL WARM UP THE BATH RIGHT NOW!
TSUBAKI!
DO YOU MIND USING MY BATHWATER FROM LAST NIGHT?
ADDING HOT WATER IS FASTER THAN HEATING NEW WATER...
HUH?
BATH?
YOUR BATH-WATER?


URABE'S BATH-WATER...
YOURS IS FINE!
IN FACT, I'D PREFER IT!!
SHIVER
SHIVER
SHIVER
HUH?
OH...
OKAY, I'LL WARM IT UP.

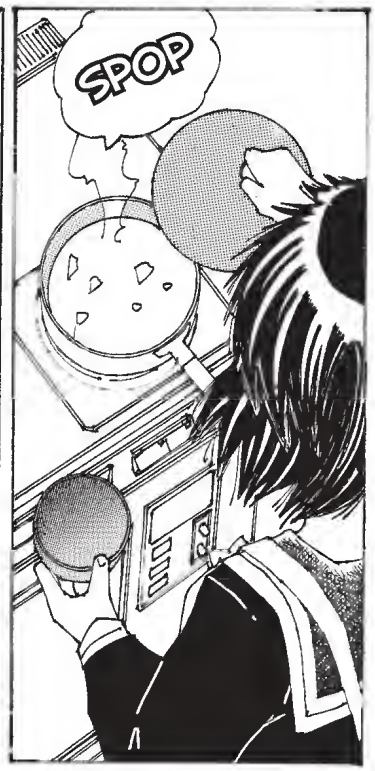

カラ…
SLIDE
UH...
OKAY!
TSUBAKI,
GET IN RIGHT AWAY!
THE BATH IS WARM.
BRRR...
SO COLD...
SHIVER
ガタ
SHIVER
ガタ

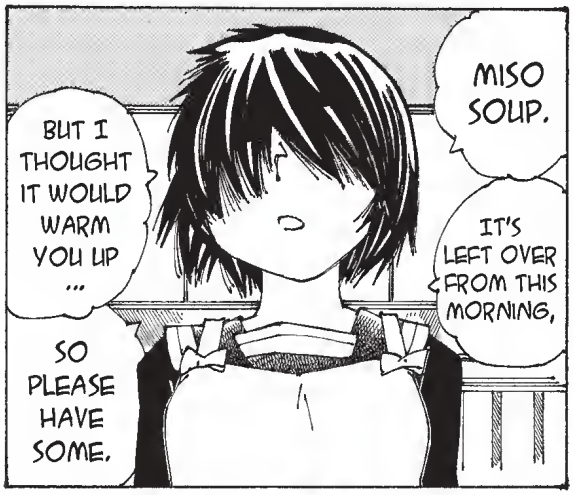

IT'S MY FIRST TIME USING URABE'S BATHTUB ...
THIS HAS GOTTEN CRAZY, THOUGH.
HUH?
ニャ
SPL
ポ
ISH
SO WARM...
WHEW...
SPLISH
ヤ
フ
SWOOSH
ザバー

WHEN I THINK THAT URABE SAT IN THIS WATER NAKED...
BUBB...
BUBB...
IT MAKES ME FEEL KINDA DIZZY...
THIS REALLY IS URABE'S BATH-WATER...
WHICH MEANS
AT THIS LENGTH ...
IT MUST BE URABE'S HAIR...
SPLASH
I'LL GO BUY SOME CLOTHING FROM A SHOP NEARBY...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THAT!
WHAT?
MY GYM UNIFORM AND JACKET ARE IN THERE,
SO JUST SET THOSE OUT.
HEY, MY BAG DIDN'T GET WET, RIGHT?
TSUBAKI ...
UH...
YEAH?
ABOUT THE CLOTHES FOR YOU TO PUT ON WHEN YOU'RE DONE ...
SPLASH

HAVE YOU WARMED UP?
URABE,
I'M DONE.
HUH?
UH...
NOTH-ING ...
HM?
WHAT?
I'VE NEVER SEEN URABE IN AN APRON BEFORE ...
WOULD YOU SIT AT THE TABLE?

TMP
コト…


SPOP


MISO SOUP.
IT'S LEFT OVER FROM THIS MORNING,
BUT I THOUGHT IT WOULD WARM YOU UP ...
SO PLEASE HAVE SOME.

OH...
OKAY, SINCE YOU OFFERED, I'LL HAVE IT.

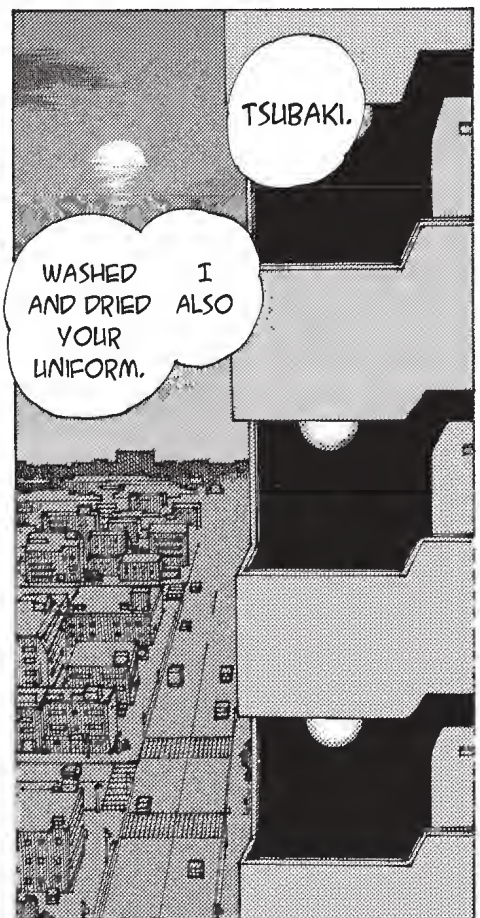
SLURP

WHAT'S THIS?

OH...
IT'S GOOD...
IF YOU'RE HUNGRY,
THERE'S RICE, TOO...
OH, REALLY?
OKAY, SINCE YOU OFFERED, I'LL TAKE SOME.
BUT, YOU KNOW ...
ALL OF THIS...
USING YOUR BATHTUB,
SEEING YOU IN AN APRON
AS I EAT YOUR MISO SOUP...
IT'S ALMOST LIKE WE'RE...
...
...

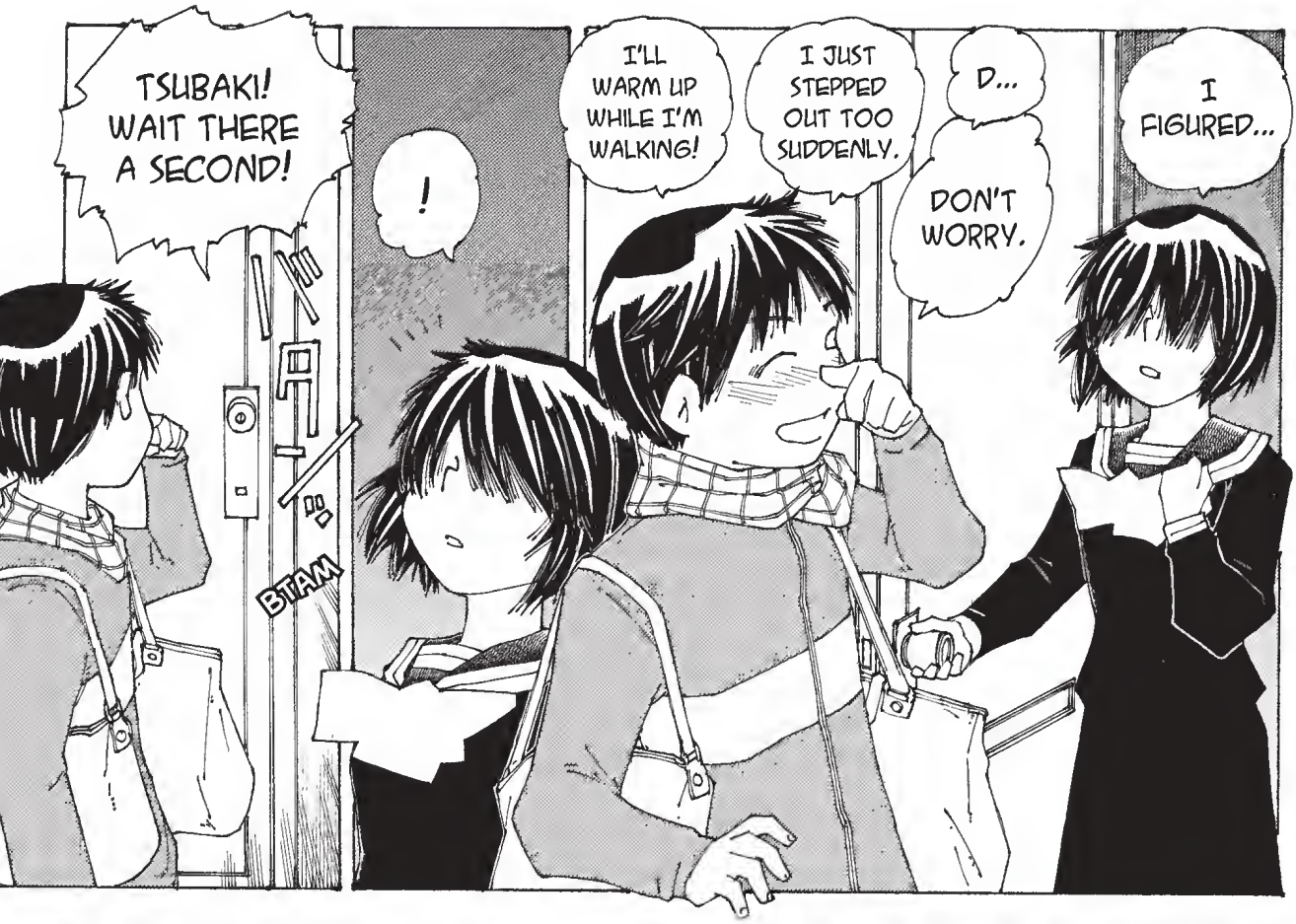
"ALMOST LIKE WE'RE..."
WHAT ?
PFFT
DON'T STOP BEFORE YOU FINISH WHAT YOU WERE SAYING.
WHAT ?
AH...
JUST ...
WELL ...
IT'S ALMOST LIKE...
... WE'RE MARRIED, I THOUGHT ...

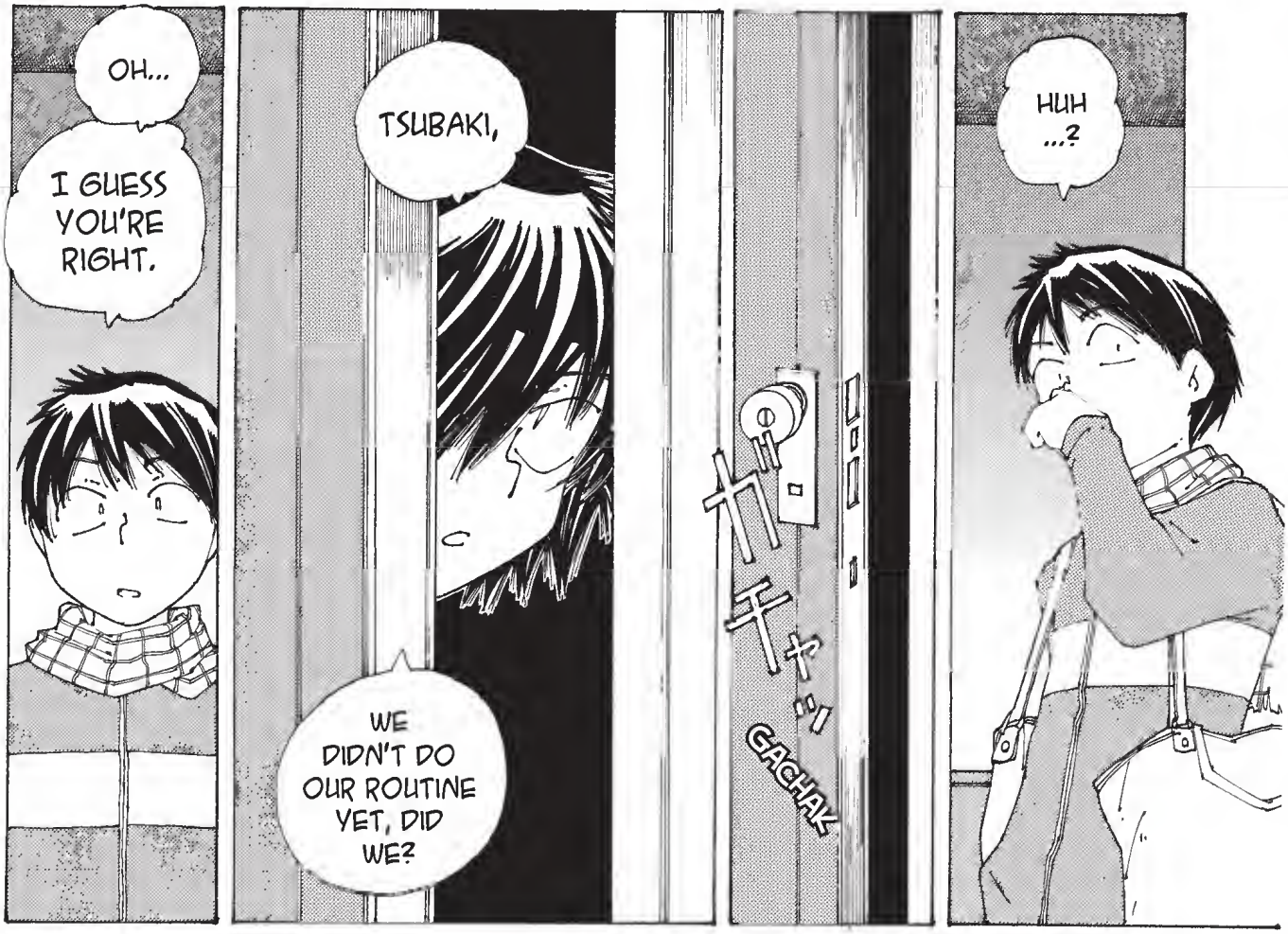
TWIRL
くるっ
スタスタ…
TROT
TROT
ぽっ
BLUSH


TSUBAKI.
I ALSO WASHED AND DRIED YOUR UNIFORM.

SLURRP
KLAK KLAK

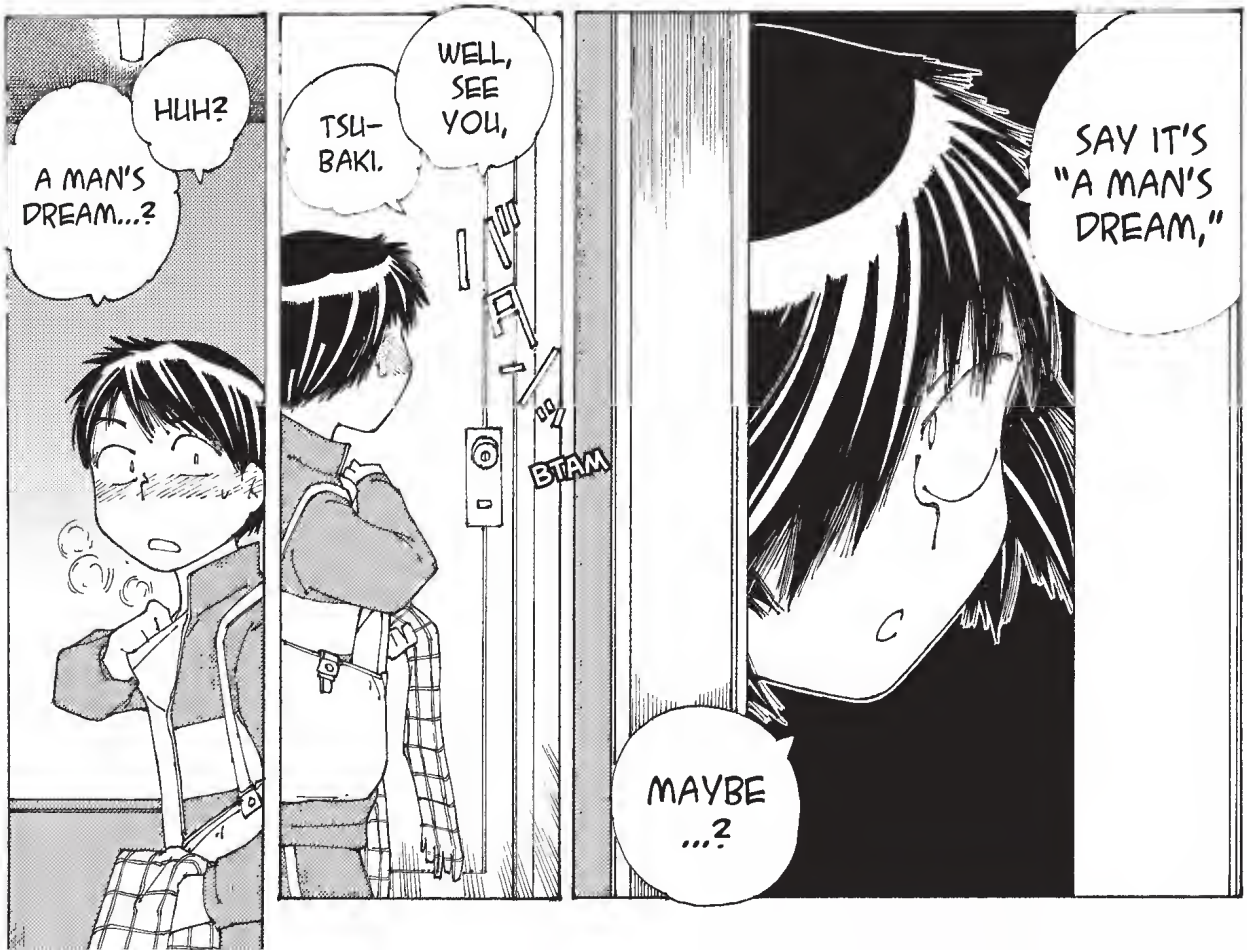
BUT IT WAS MY FAULT YOU FELL IN THE LAKE,
SO I'LL PAY TO HAVE IT CLEANED ...
THIS IS PLENTY!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!
WON'T YOU BE COLD GOING HOME
DRESSED LIKE THAT?
NAH, I HAD A BATH,
AND I EVEN ATE DINNER.
I'M NICE AND WARM NOW.
WELL, URABE,
SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW!
ガチャ
GACHAK
ビュオオオオ
WHOOOOOSH
AH...
AAAAAH CHOOOO!!

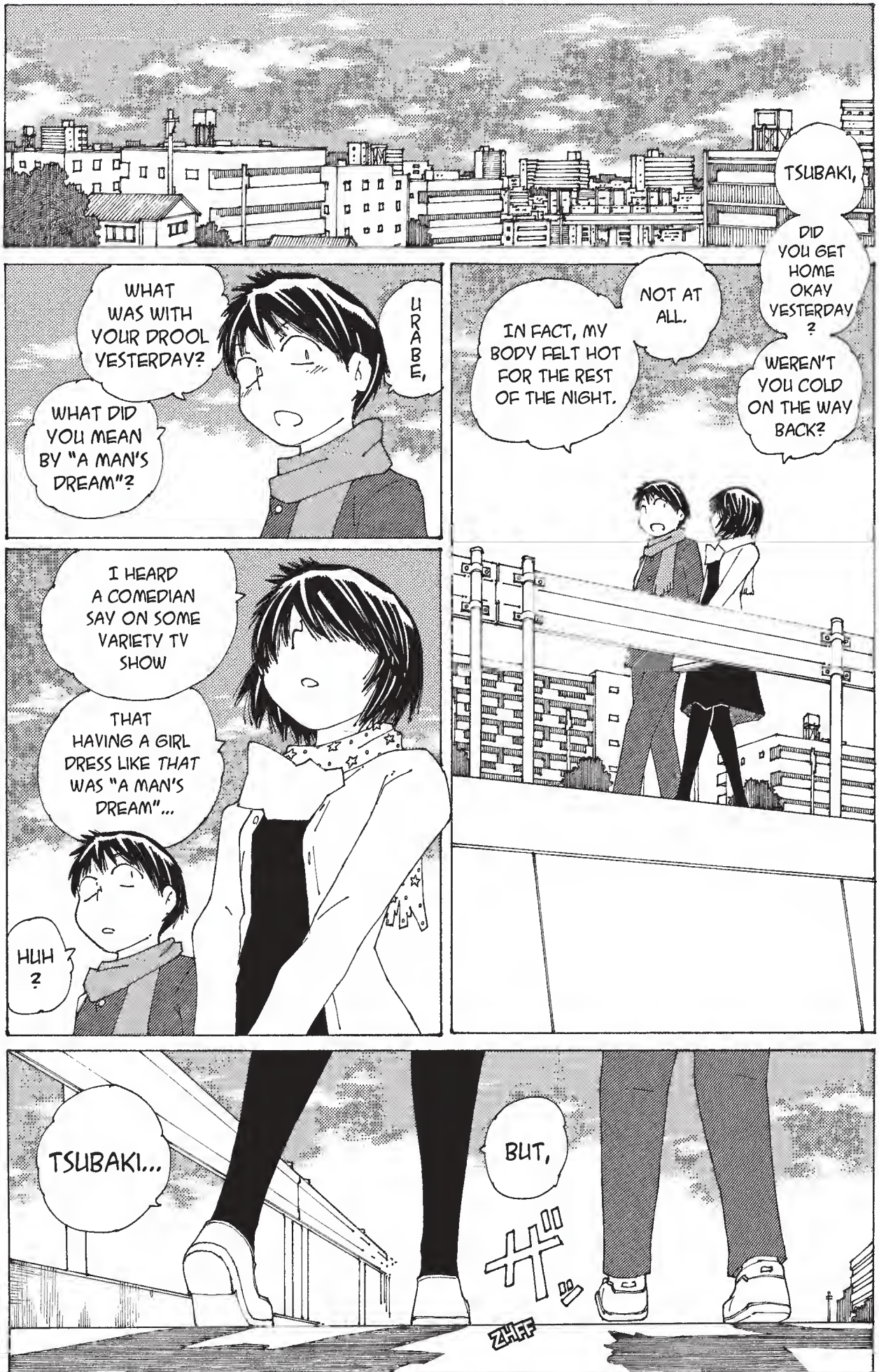

TSUBAKI! WAIT THERE A SECOND!
!
I'LL WARM UP WHILE I'M WALKING!
I JUST STEPPED OUT TOO SUDDENLY.
D...
DON'T WORRY.
I FIGURED...
BTAM


OH...
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.
TSUBAKI,
WE DIDN'T DO OUR ROUTINE YET, DID WE?
GACHAK
HUH ...?

HERE.
TODAY'S DOSE.
SHLP
UH...
OKAY!
SHLP
ZOOM
BA

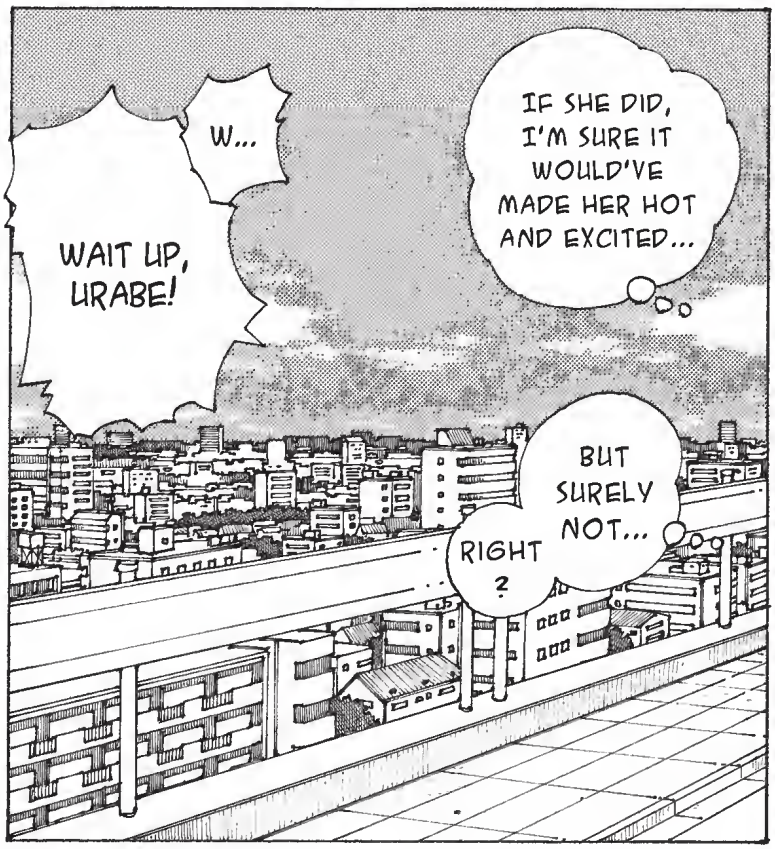
URABE !!
WHAT IS WITH YOUR DROOL TODAY?
ACTUALLY, I'M HOT!!
I'M SUPER CRAZY TOASTY WARM NOW!!
ARE YOU WARM NOW?
IF I HAD TO DESCRIBE IT...
...
ROARRR


HUH?
A MAN'S DREAM...?
TSU-BAKI.
WELL, SEE YOU,
BTAM
SAY IT'S "A MAN'S DREAM,"
MAYBE ...?


TSUBAKI,
DID YOU GET HOME OKAY YESTERDAY?
WEREN'T YOU COLD ON THE WAY BACK?
NOT AT ALL.
IN FACT, MY BODY FELT HOT FOR THE REST OF THE NIGHT.
URABE,
WHAT WAS WITH YOUR DROOL YESTERDAY?
WHAT DID YOU MEAN BY "A MAN'S DREAM"?
I HEARD A COMEDIAN SAY ON SOME VARIETY TV SHOW
THAT HAVING A GIRL DRESS LIKE THAT WAS "A MAN'S DREAM"...
HUH?
TSUBAKI...
BUT,
ガッ
ZAHFF

EVEN IF I DO MARRY YOU,
I WON'T EVER DRESS LIKE THAT
IN FRONT OF YOU!
HUH?
DRESS LIKE...
WHAT...?
ZOOM
BA
AH...
WAIT...
URABE...!
HUH...?
A MAN'S DREAM?
MAR-RIAGE?

THE OUTFIT I'D LIKE TO SEE HER IN...
IF I MARRIED URABE...
TSUBAKI!
BTAM
WAIT THERE A SECOND!



END OF CHAPTER 54

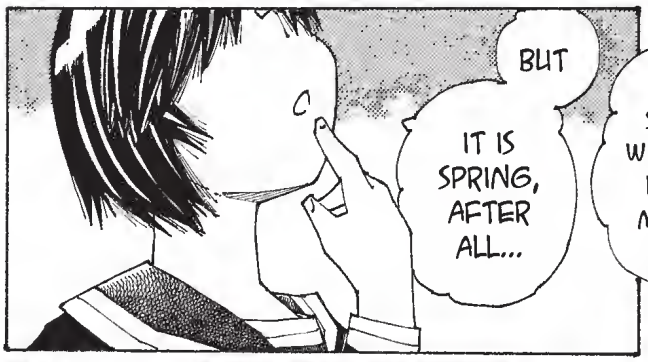
CHAPTER 55: MYSTERIOUS PETAL

AH!
WHEN DID YOU TAKE THIS PICTURE?
LAST SUNDAY,
WHEN WE WENT ON A DATE.
SINCE IT'S SPRING AND ALL,
I WANTED TO HAVE AT LEAST ONE PICTURE LIKE THIS...
A PIC OF HIS GIRLFRIEND WITH CHERRY BLOSSOMS ...
I'M JEALOUS ...
YES,
IT'S NOW THE HEIGHT OF SPRING.

I'D LIKE A PICTURE OF URABE WITH CHERRY BLOSSOMS BEHIND HER, TOO...
THE CHERRY TREES ARE IN FULL BLOOM.
URABE ...
WHAT?
I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK YOU.
LOOK! THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS ARE IN FULL BLOOM, RIGHT?
SINCE THEY'RE SO BEAUTIFUL RIGHT NOW...
A FAVOR?

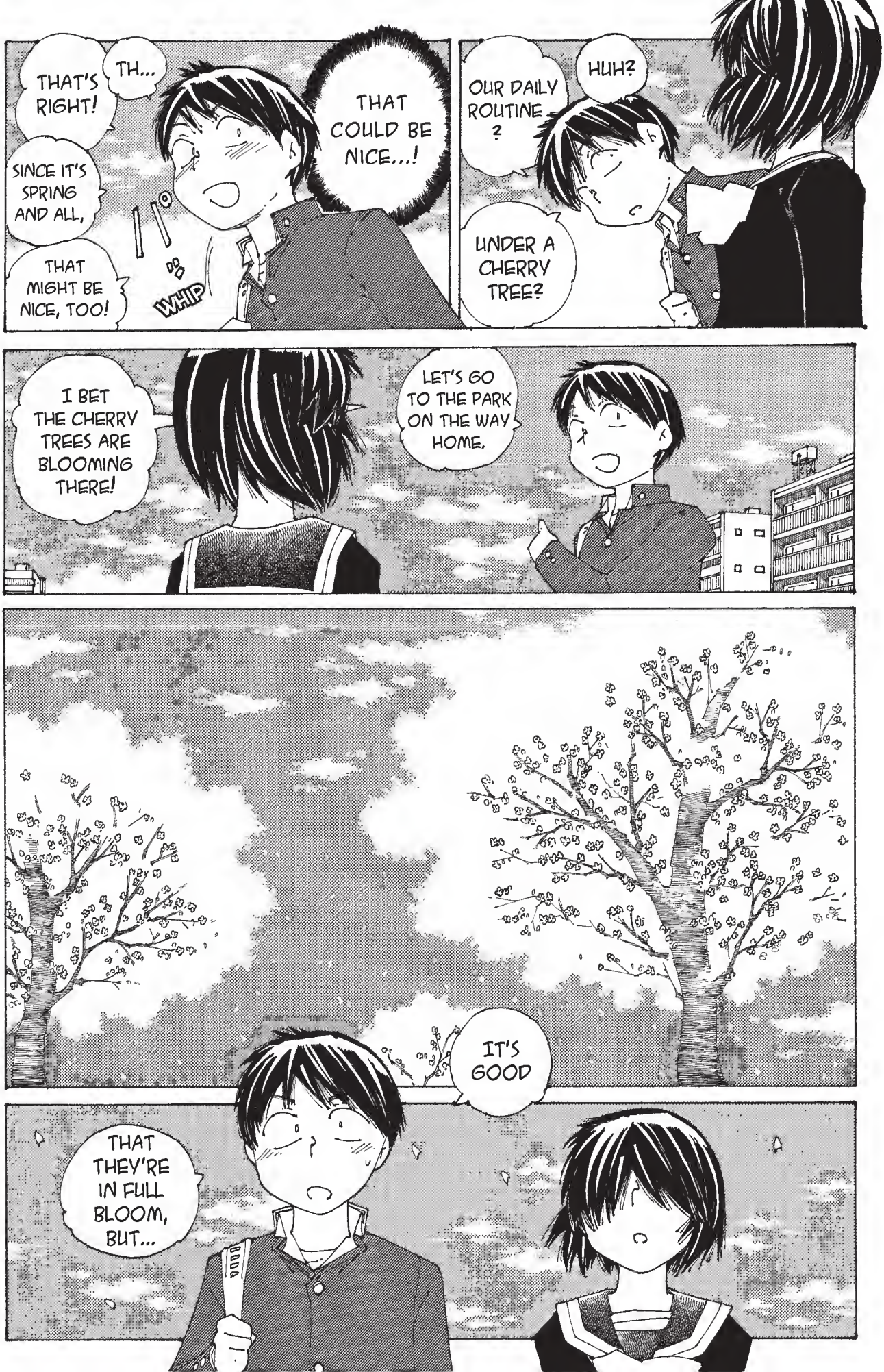
I WANT TO TAKE A PHOTO
OF YOU IN FRONT OF SOME CHERRY BLOSSOMS ...
I KNOW IT'D MAKE A REALLY CUTE PICTURE!
SO... CAN I?
WHIP

NO!


BUT IT IS SPRING, AFTER ALL...

YOU CAN'T TAKE A PHOTO,
BUT WE CAN DO OUR DAILY ROUTINE
UNDER A CHERRY TREE.

SHE WON'T LET ME...
IT SEEMS LIKE EVERYONE DOES IT...
IS SUCH A CLICHÉ.
A PICTURE OF YOUR GIRLFRIEND WITH SOME CHERRY BLOSSOMS
がっくし...
CRESTFED

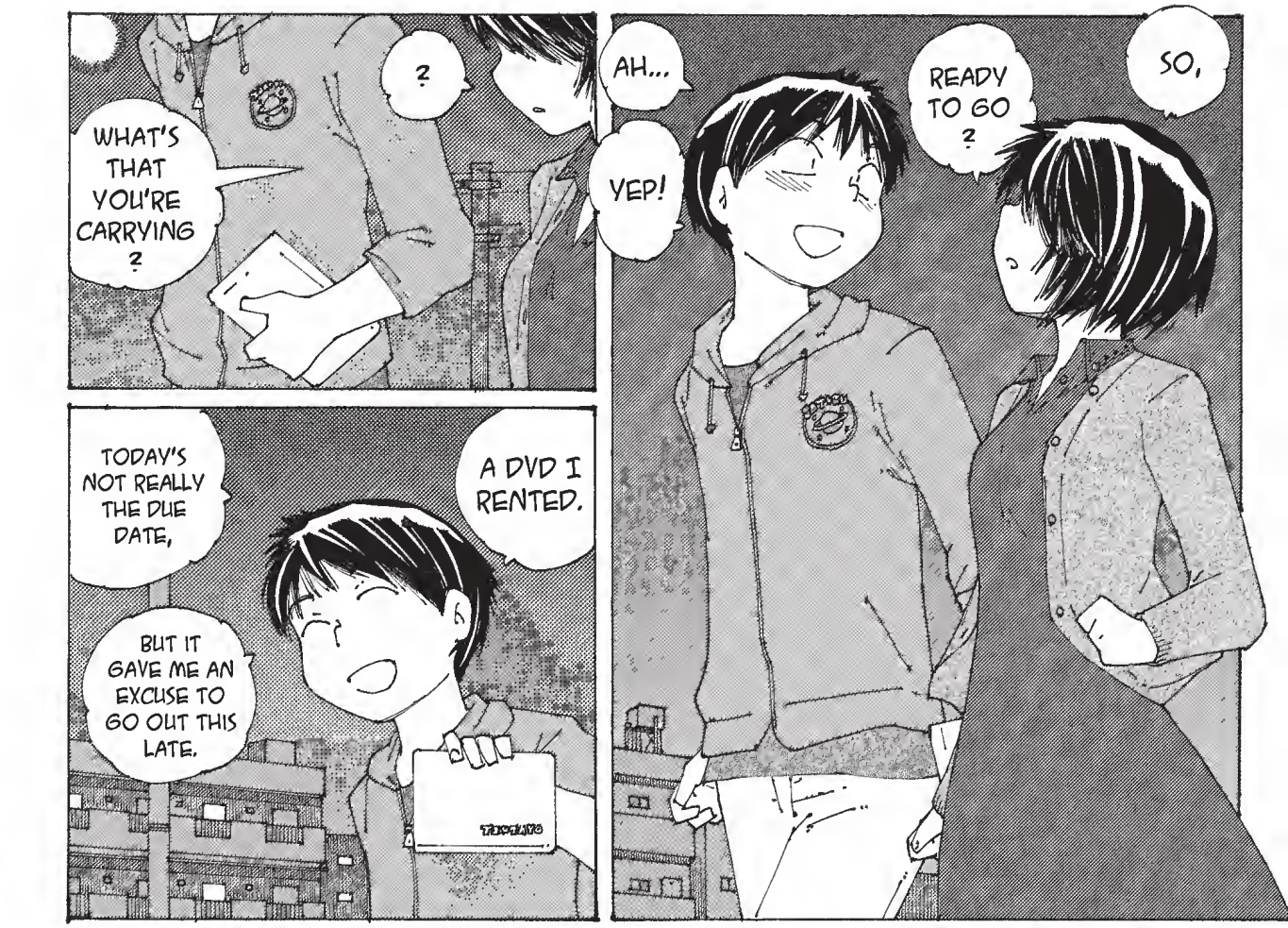

THAT'S RIGHT!
TH...
SINCE IT'S SPRING AND ALL,
THAT MIGHT BE NICE, TOO!
WHIP
THAT COULD BE NICE...!
HUH?
OUR DAILY ROUTINE?
UNDER A CHERRY TREE?
I BET THE CHERRY TREES ARE BLOOMING THERE!
LET'S GO TO THE PARK ON THE WAY HOME.
IT'S GOOD
THAT THEY'RE IN FULL BLOOM, BUT...

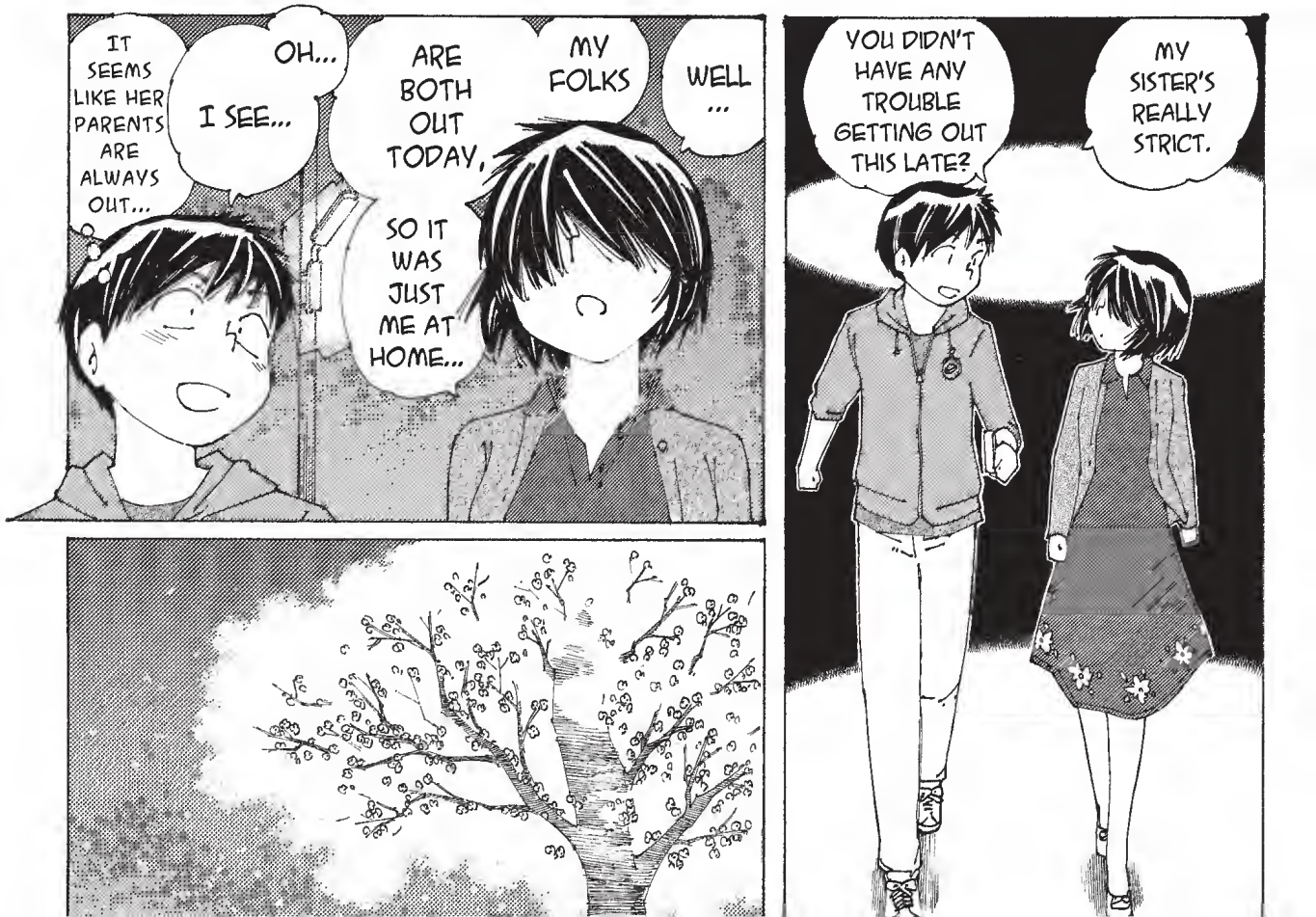
YAAAAAAAY
SO MANY PEOPLE...
I GUESS THIS PARK IS A POPULAR SPOT FOR FLOWER VIEWING.
NO WAY WE CAN DO OUR ROUTINE HERE.
WAH HA HA HA...
TRY COMING AT NIGHT...
WE CAN

HUH?
THERE'LL BE FEWER PEOPLE AT NIGHT,
SO MAYBE WE CAN DO OUR ROUTINE THEN...
S...
SO,
YOU MEAN ...
YOU AND I WOULD COME
ALONE
TO THE PARK AT NIGHT ?
RIGHT.
IT SEEMS THE PARK ISN'T LIT UP AT NIGHT,
SO I DON'T THINK ANY-ONE WILL COME TO SEE THE FLOW-ERS THEN.
I'M IN! I'M IN!
I'LL PICK YOU UP AT YOUR PLACE!
OKAY, 9 O'CLOCK, THEN.
WILL YOU WAIT OUTSIDE MY BUILDING?
OKAY!
9 IT IS!
ALL RIGHT!
A NIGHTTIME DATE WITH URABE!

YOUKO!
I'M GOING OUT FOR A BIT!
WHAT?
WHERE ARE YOU GOING AT THIS HOUR?
I'LL BE BACK AS SOON AS I CAN!
THE DVD RENTAL STORE.
I FORGOT TODAY WAS THE DUE DATE.
YOU CAN'T GO TOMORROW?
NO,
IT HAS TO BE TODAY
OR THEY'LL CHARGE A LATE FEE.
TODAY ISN'T REALLY THE DUE DATE, THOUGH...

THANKS FOR WAITING.
TSUBAKI,
キイ…
KNEEK


SO,
READY TO GO ?
AH...
YEP!
?
WHAT'S THAT YOU'RE CARRYING ?
A DVD I RENTED.
TODAY'S NOT REALLY THE DUE DATE,
BUT IT GAVE ME AN EXCUSE TO GO OUT THIS LATE.


WELL ...
MY FOLKS ARE BOTH OUT TODAY,
OH... I SEE...
IT SEEMS LIKE HER PARENTS ARE ALWAYS OUT...
SO IT WAS JUST ME AT HOME...
MY SISTER'S REALLY STRICT.
YOU DIDN'T HAVE ANY TROUBLE GETTING OUT THIS LATE?

AT NIGHT WAS WELL AND GOOD...
COMING HERE
IT'S A FLOWER VIEWING SPOT DURING THE DAY,
BUT IT'S FULL OF COUPLES ...
AND A POPULAR DATE SPOT AT NIGHT...

WOW...
I DON'T THINK
WE CAN DO OUR ROUTINE HERE...
URABE ...
IF I PUT
MY ARM AROUND YOUR SHOULDERS,
WOULD YOU GET MAD?
SPIN

TWIRL
TWIRL
TWIRL
TWIRL

TWIRL
TWIRL
TWIRL
TWIRL
YES, I WOULD.
SHE'S KICKING UP A STORM OF PETALS
SHINK
OKAY, I WON'T, I WON'T.

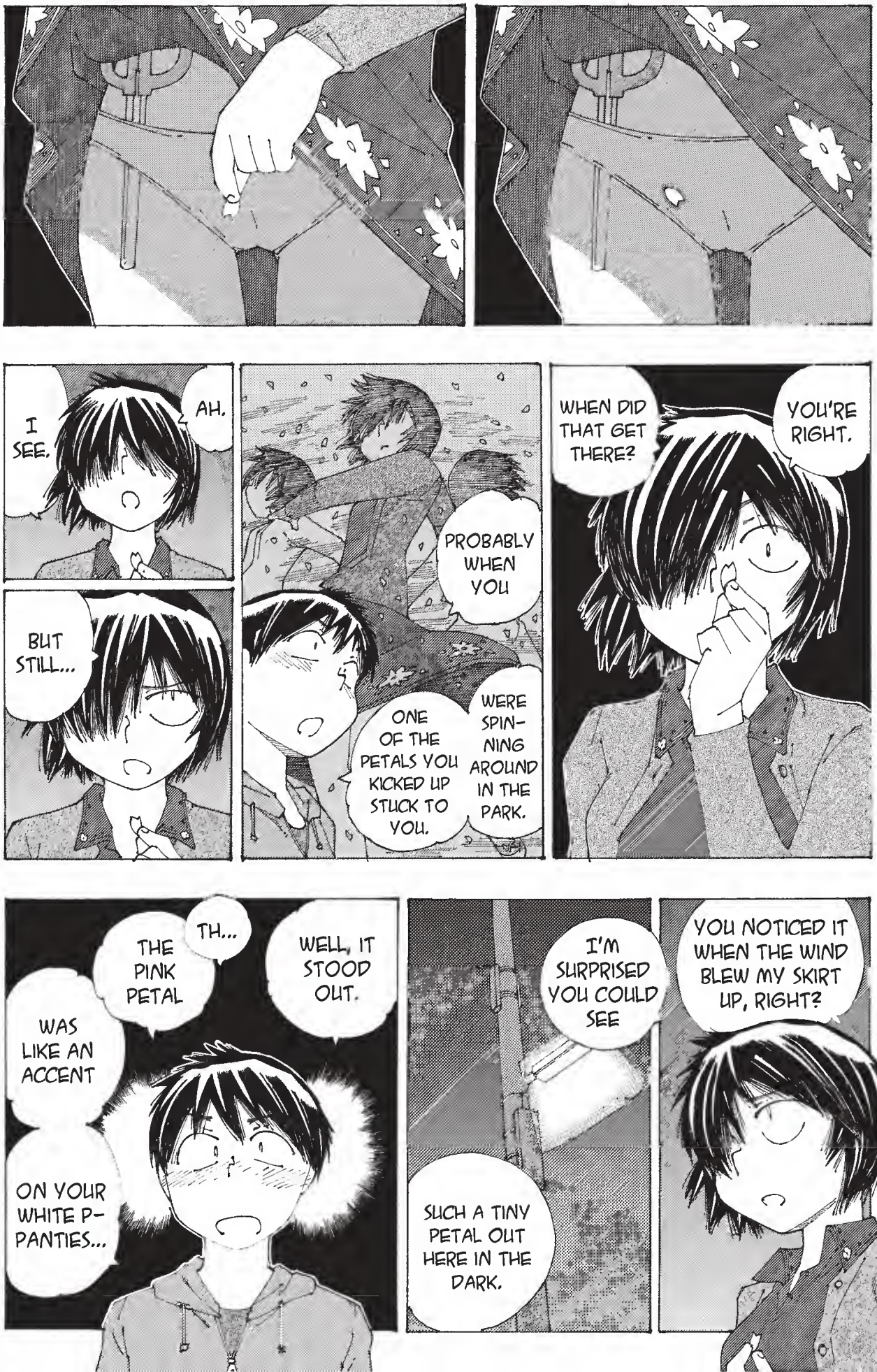
ABOUT OUR ROUTINE...
UMABE?
WHAT SHOULD WE DO,
IT MIGHT BE EMPTY THERE...
THERE'S A CHERRY TREE AT THE SHRINE,
A SHORT WALK FROM THE MAIN ROAD.
I WOULD'VE LIKED TO DO IT UNDER A CHERRY TREE...
SINCE IT'S SPRING,
ALL THOSE PEOPLE IN THAT PARK,
BUT WHEN I SAW
IT DIDN'T MATTER ANYMORE.
NO, I'LL WALK YOU HOME.
HUH?
IS FAR ENOUGH.
TSUBAKI,
RIGHT HERE

IT'S OKAY.
IT WON'T TAKE 3 MINUTES FROM HERE.
OKAY.
HERE, TSUBAKI.
TODAY'S DOSE.
SINCE IT'S SPRING AND ALL ...
I WANTED TO DO IT UNDER A CHERRY TREE, TOO...
!
SHLP

WHAT IS IT, TSUBAKI?
?
...
HOW SO?
DIFFER-ENT?
YOUR DROOL...
IT TASTES DIFFERENT TODAY, SOME-HOW...
IT'S SORT OF ...
BITTER-SWEET, OR SOMETHING.
IT KIND OF MAKES MY SPINE TINGLE...
WELL ...
AND IT MADE MY HEART SKIP A BEAT ...
WHOA !
WHOOSH
AH!

SWAT
STUPID WIND!
MY SKIRT?
SHFF
UNDER YOUR SKIRT...
HUH?
WHY?
YOUR DROOL TASTED DIFFERENT TODAY!
NOW I KNOW WHY

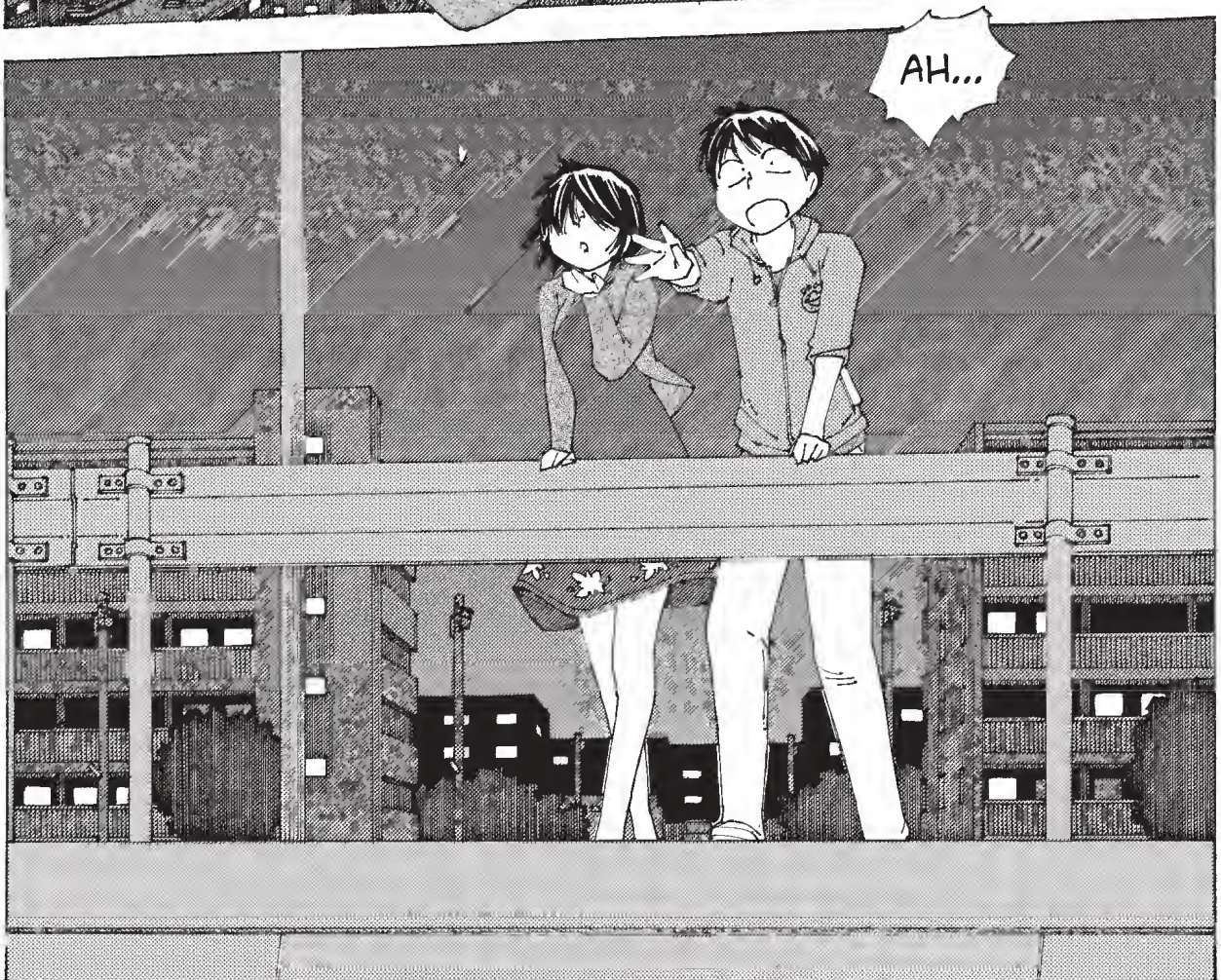
ON...
ON YOUR PANTIES ...
THERE WAS A SINGLE
CHERRY BLOSSOM PETAL...

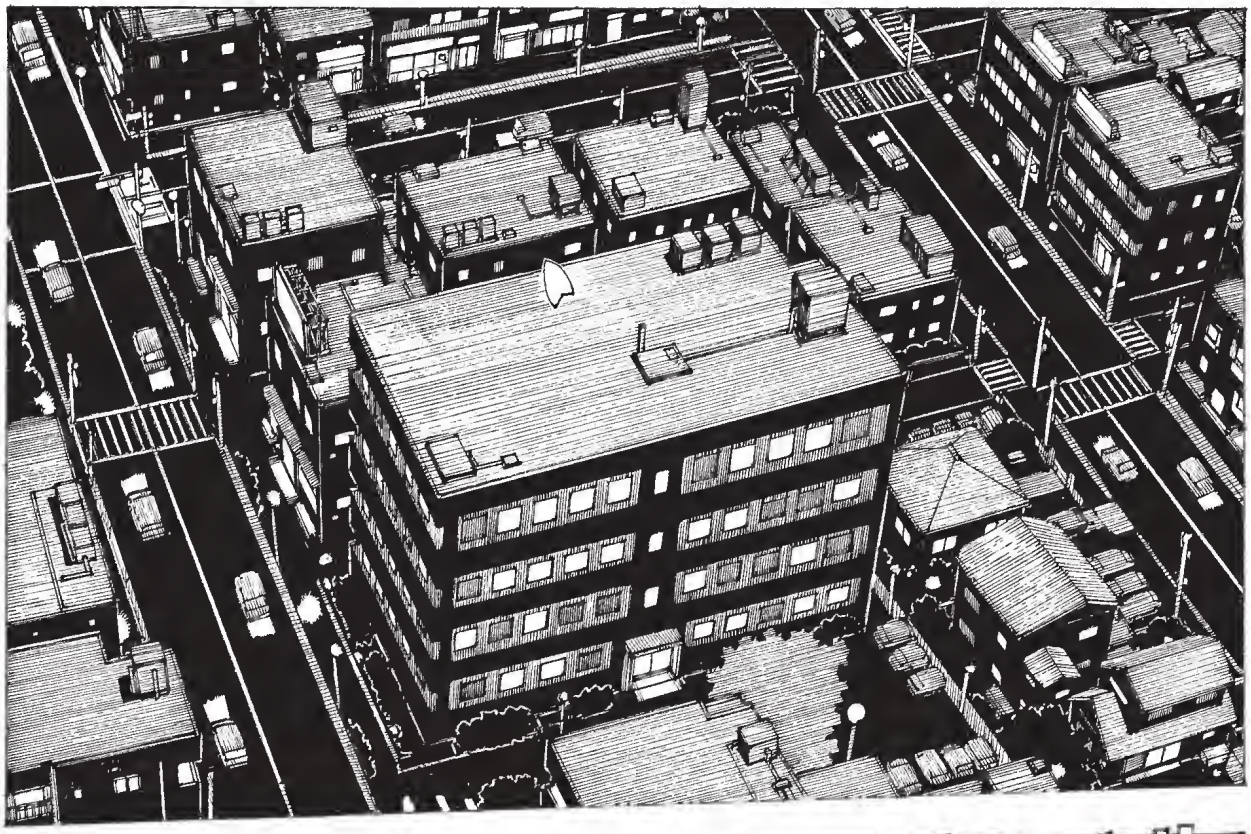

AH.
I SEE.
BUT STILL...
PROBABLY WHEN YOU
ONE OF THE PETALS YOU KICKED UP STUCK TO YOU.
WERE SPIN-NING AROUND IN THE PARK.
WHEN DID THAT GET THERE?
YOU'RE RIGHT.
TH...
THE PINK PETAL
WAS LIKE AN ACCENT
ON YOUR WHITE P-PANTIES...
WELL, IT STOOD OUT.
I'M SURPRISED YOU COULD SEE
SUCH A TINY PETAL OUT HERE IN THE DARK.
YOU NOTICED IT WHEN THE WIND BLEW MY SKIRT UP, RIGHT?

TSUBAKI.
I JUST GOT THE FEELING
FOR SOME REASON...
THAT IT REALLY IS SPRING RIGHT NOW!

HUH?!
THIS PETAL ?
DO YOU WANT
GUESS I'LL TAKE IT AS A MEMENTO.
O... OKAY ...
A PETAL THAT WAS STUCK TO URABE'S PANTIES...

FOO
SHFF

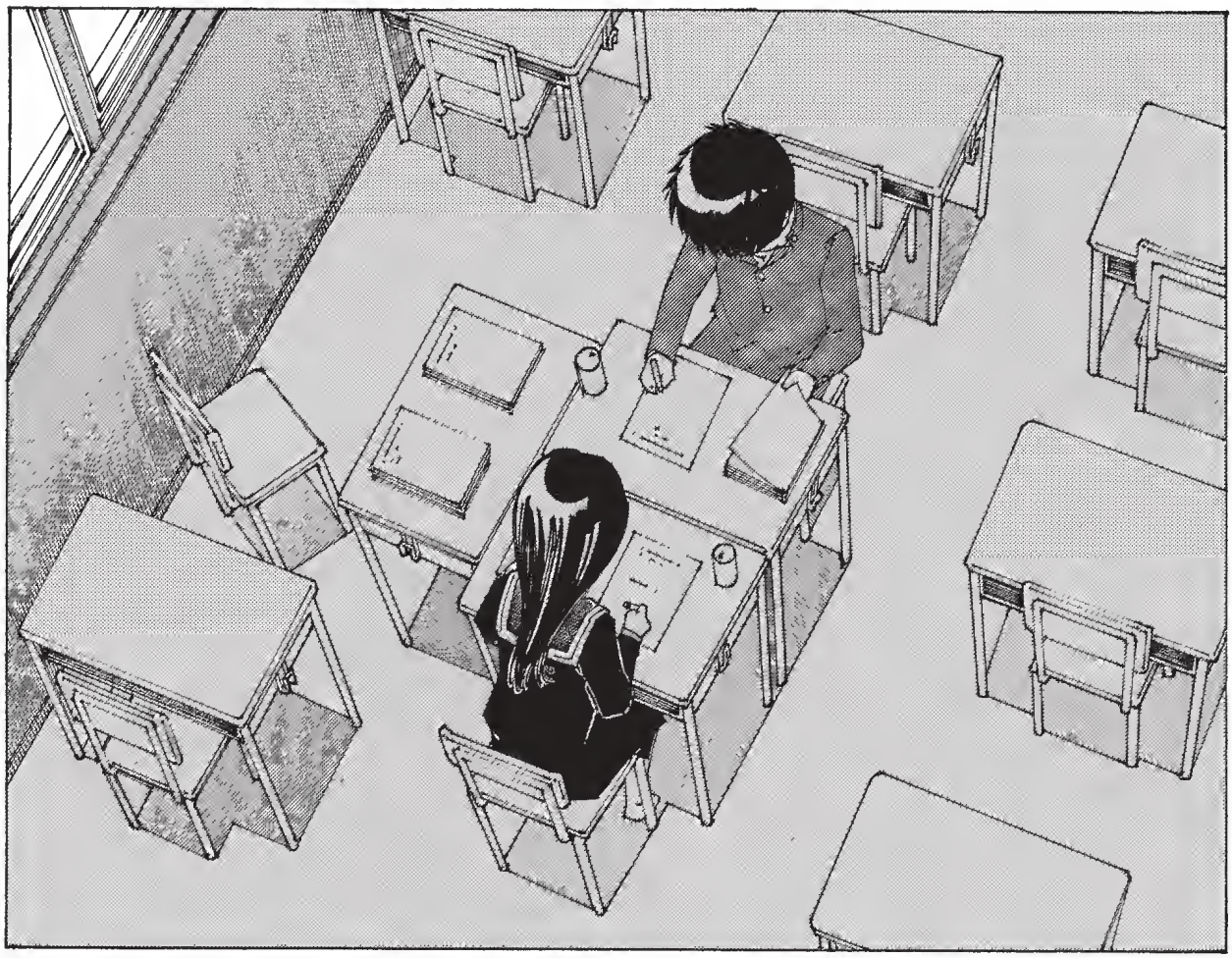

AH...



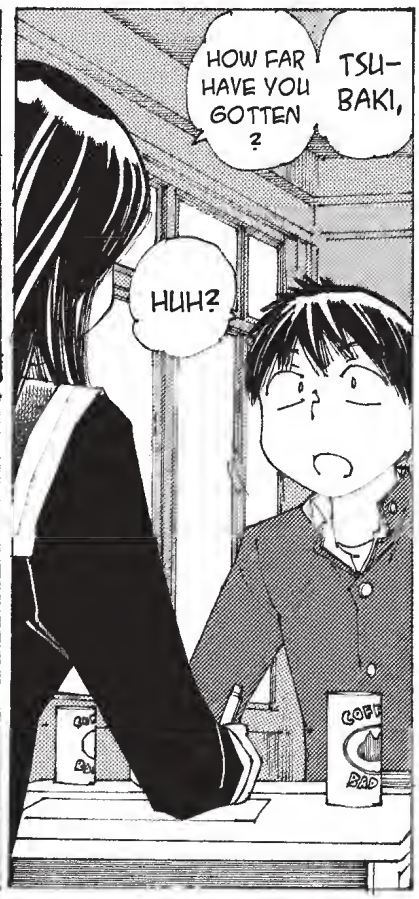
WHOOSH
TOO BAD!

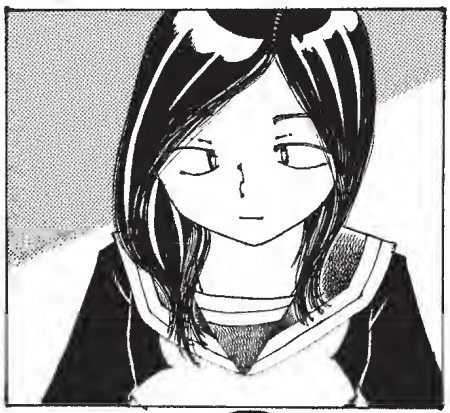
END OF CHAPTER 55

CHAPTER 56: MYSTERIOUS THROB

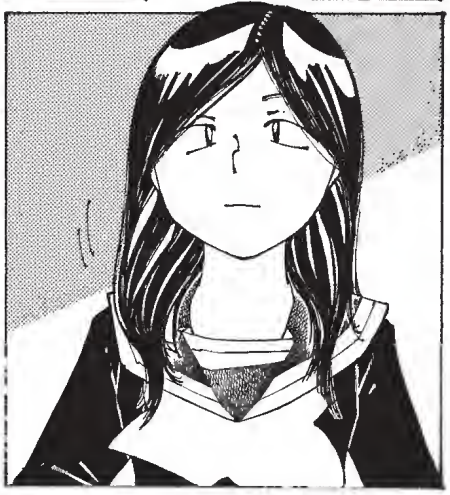


UM...
ABOUT 2/3 OF THE WAY?

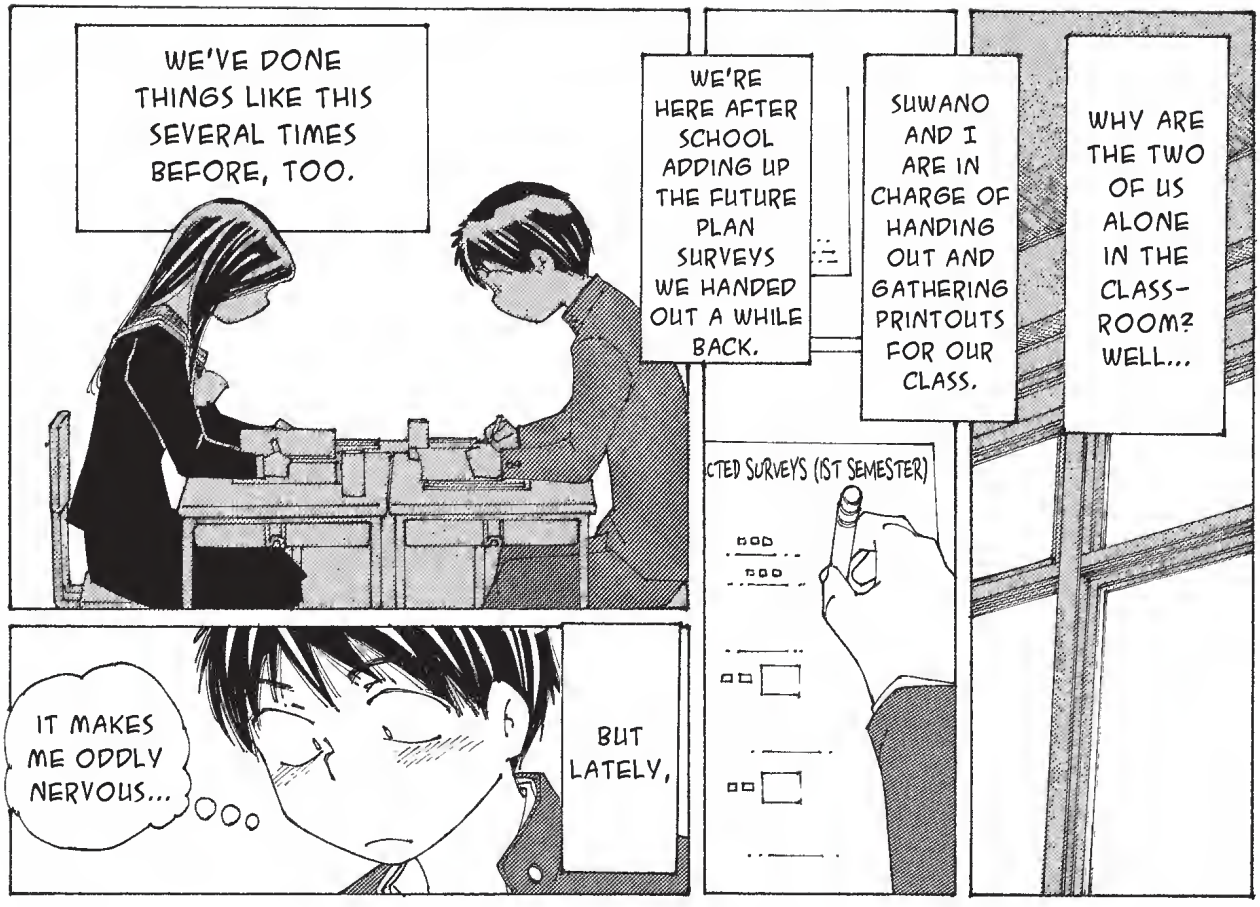

TSU-BAKI,
HOW FAR HAVE YOU GOTTEN?
HUH?

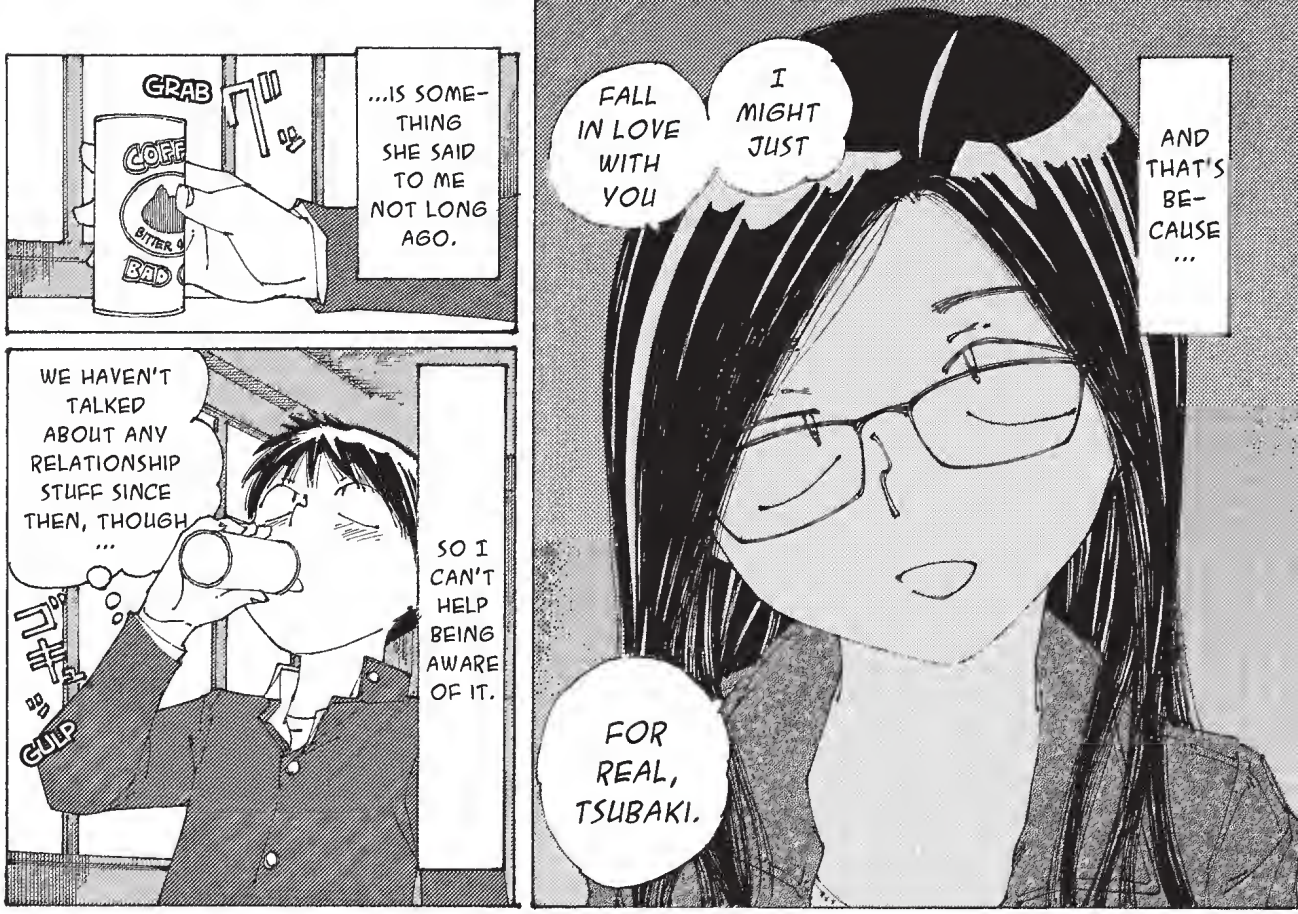


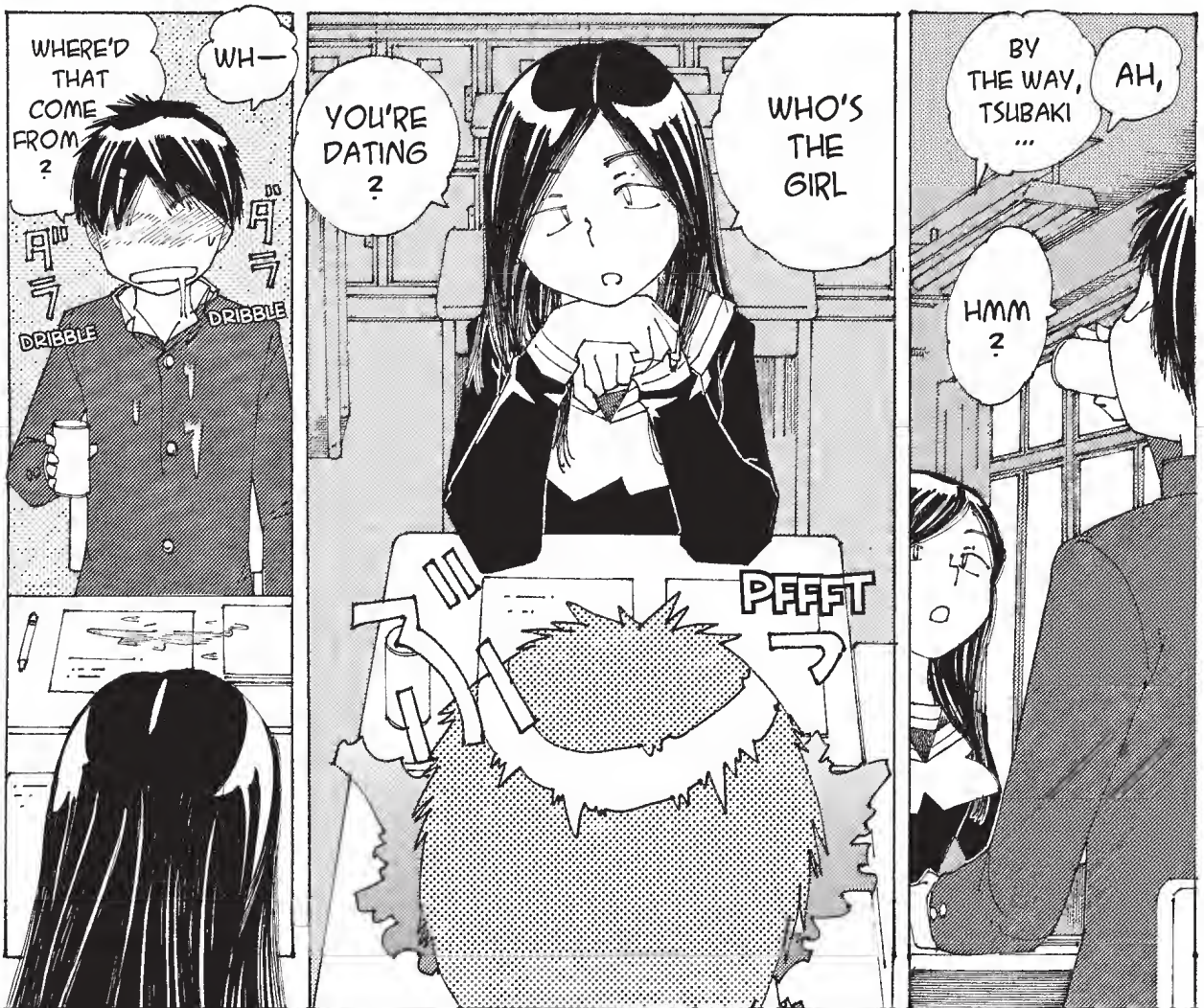
I ONLY HAVE ABOUT THREE LEFT.
I'LL HELP WITH YOURS WHEN I'M DONE.



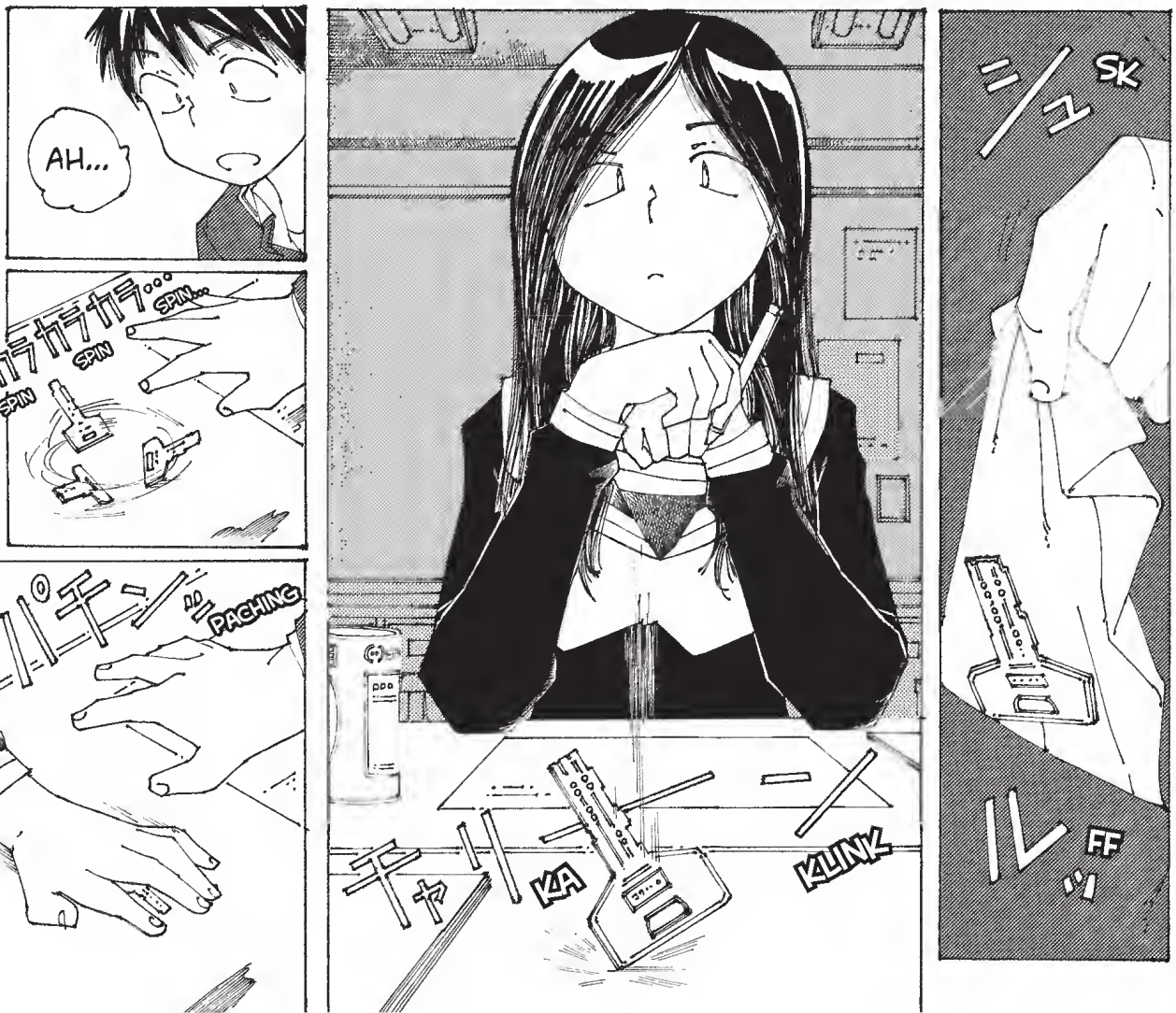
THE GIRL SITTING ACROSS FROM ME NOW
IS RYOUKO SUWANO,
MY CLASS-MATE.
OH,
THANK YOU.
チラ
GLANCE

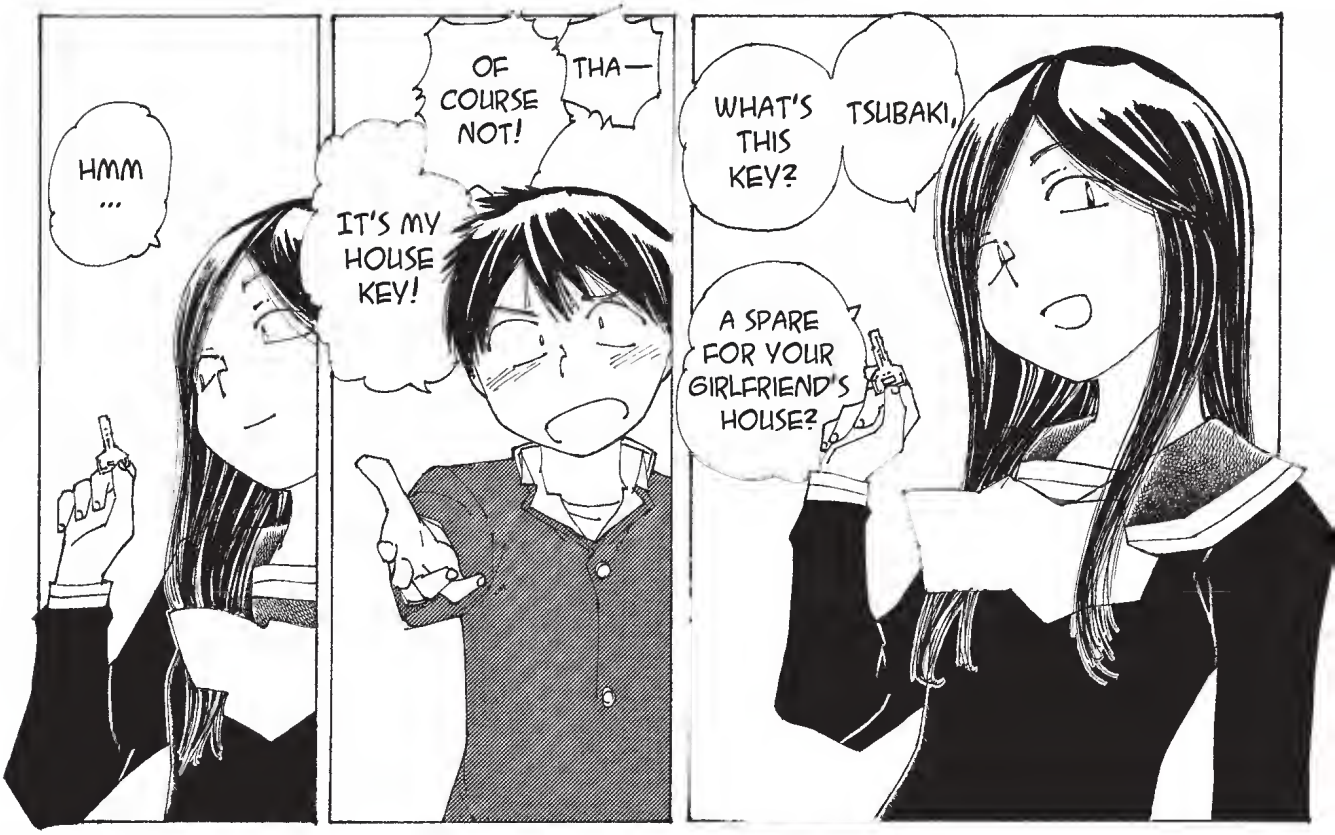

WE'VE DONE THINGS LIKE THIS SEVERAL TIMES BEFORE, TOO.
WE'RE HERE AFTER SCHOOL ADDING UP THE FUTURE PLAN SURVEYS WE HANDED OUT A WHILE BACK.
SUWANO AND I ARE IN CHARGE OF HANDING OUT AND GATHERING PRINTOUTS FOR OUR CLASS.
WHY ARE THE TWO OF US ALONE IN THE CLASS-ROOM? WELL...
CTED SURVEYS (1ST SEMESTER)
IT MAKES ME ODDLY NERVOUS...
BUT LATELY,

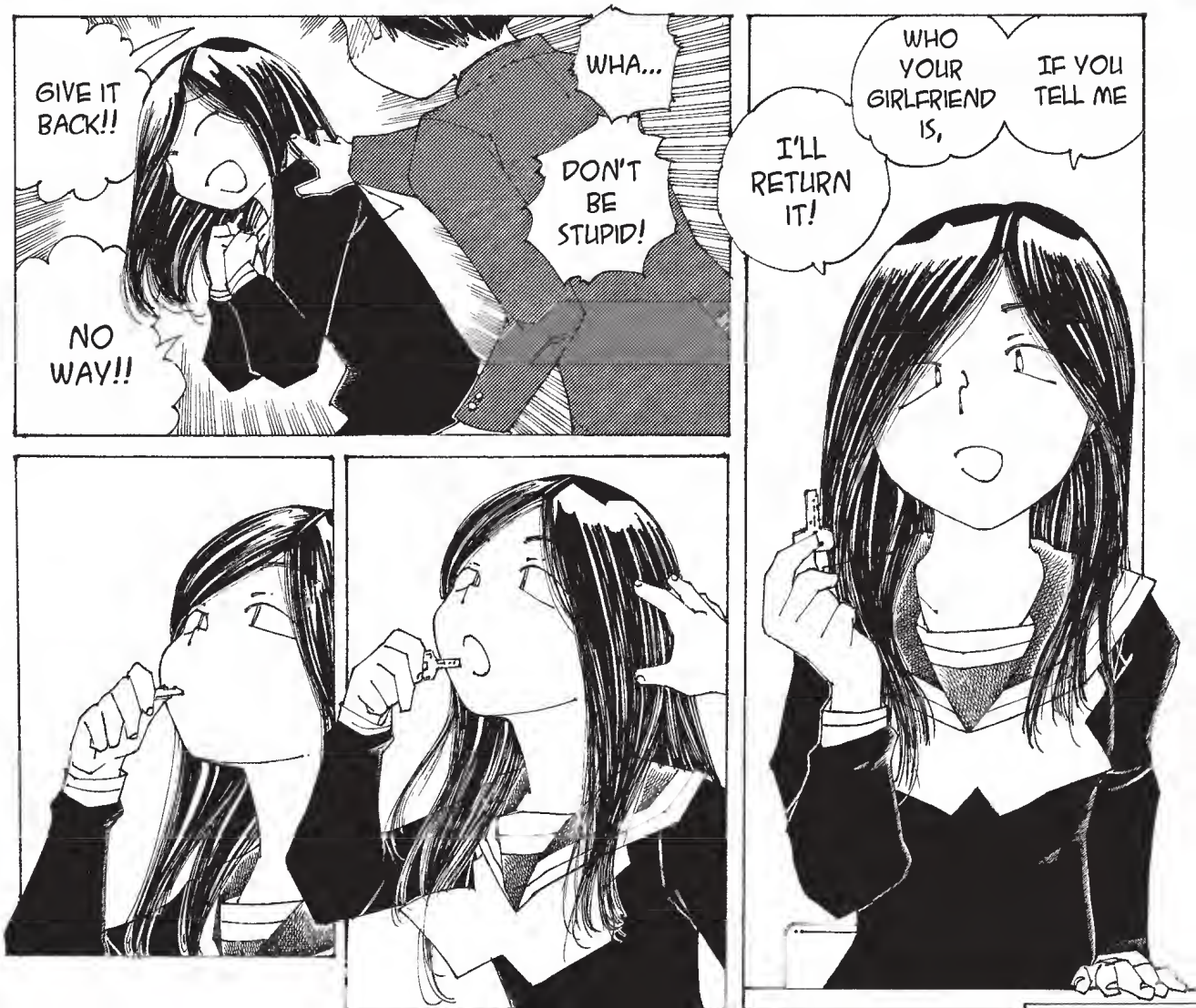

GRAB
COFFEE
BITTER
BAD
...IS SOMETHING SHE SAID TO ME NOT LONG AGO.
WE HAVEN'T TALKED ABOUT ANY RELATIONSHIP STUFF SINCE THEN, THOUGH...
GULP
SO I CAN'T HELP BEING AWARE OF IT.
AND THAT'S BECAUSE...
I MIGHT JUST FALL IN LOVE WITH YOU
FOR REAL, TSUBAKI.


WHERE'D THAT COME FROM?
WH—
DRIBBLE
DRIBBLE
YOU'RE DATING?
WHO'S THE GIRL
PFFFT
BY THE WAY, TSUBAKI...
AH,
HMM?

HANKY ...
HANKY ...
AND MADE ME SPIT OUT MY COFFEE !
ACK, THE SURVEY FORMS ARE WET!
Y... YOU ASKED THAT OUT OF THE BLUE,
IS SHE IN OUR CLASS ?
IT'S A SECRET!
A SECRET!
UH...
WELL ...


AH...
SPIN SPIN... SPIN
PACHING
KA
KLINK
SK
FF


TSUBAKI,
WHAT'S THIS KEY?
A SPARE FOR YOUR GIRLFRIEND'S HOUSE?
THA—
OF COURSE NOT!
IT'S MY HOUSE KEY!
HMM ...


IF YOU TELL ME WHO YOUR GIRLFRIEND IS,
I'LL RETURN IT!
WHA...
DON'T BE STUPID!
GIVE IT BACK!!
NO WAY!!

HEY...
IT'S IN YOUR...
DON'T ACT LIKE A LITTLE BRAT!
I WON' GIB IP BAG
UNDIL YOU DELL ME!
LISTEN, SUWANO.
TO ME,
MY GIRL-FRIEND
IS SOMEONE REALLY PRECIOUS.
SO THE WAY I FEEL IS...
I DON'T WANT ANYONE TO KNOW YET.
I WON'T TELL YOU JUST BECAUSE
YOU ASKED ME OUT OF NOWHERE.
SO, COME ON,
PLEASE.
GIVE ME BACK MY KEY!
...

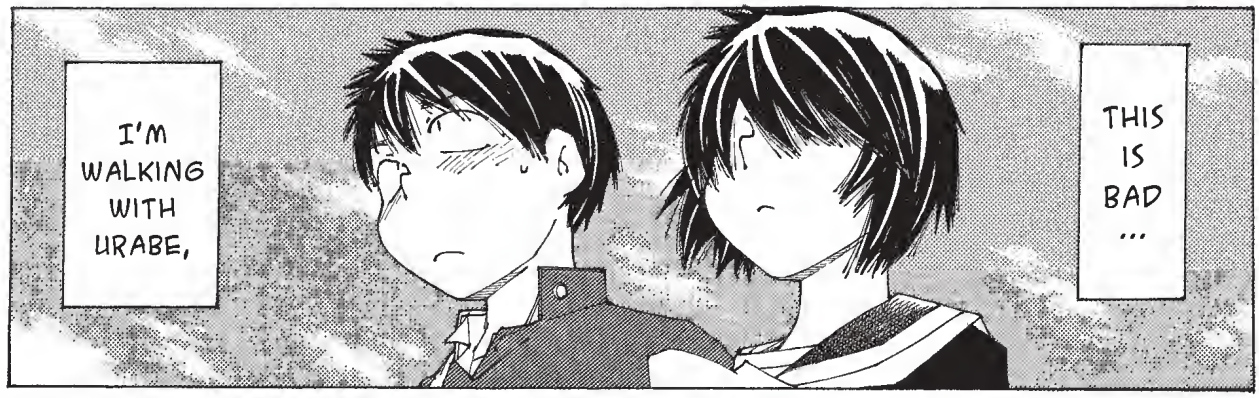
I'W GIB ID BAG.
THOWWY.
THOMWON PWESHUSH TO YOU...
HMM ...

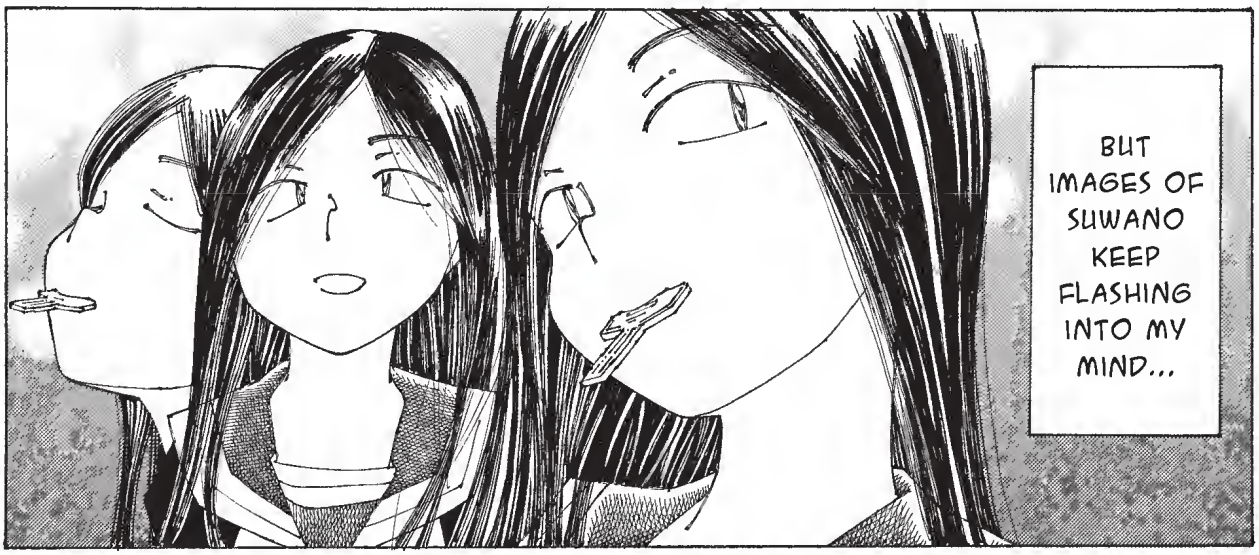
TUG
TAGE ID.
BRUSH
TUG
TUG
I CAN'T TAKE IT IF YOU'RE BITING IT!
HEY...
POP
AH...

HUH ?
YOU THINK THAT'S GROSS ?
NO... NOT REALLY ...
IT'S COVERED IN DROOL...
JEEZ ...
I DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO CALL HER DROOL "GROSS."
IT'S NOT GROSS, BUT...
I TASTE MY GIRLFRIEND'S DROOL EVERY DAY.
STILL ...

I DON'T KNOW WHY,
BUT SINCE THEN ...
MY INDEX FINGER
FEELS LIKE...
IT'S THROBBING ...
IT MUST BE BECAUSE
I TOUCHED SUWANO'S LIP GETTING THE KEY BACK...
THE SOFT FEEL OF HER LIP
IS STILL LINGERING ON MY FINGERTIP.
THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER TOUCHED A GIRL'S LIP...
AND I HAVEN'T EVEN TOUCHED URABE'S LIPS YET...
CRAP ...

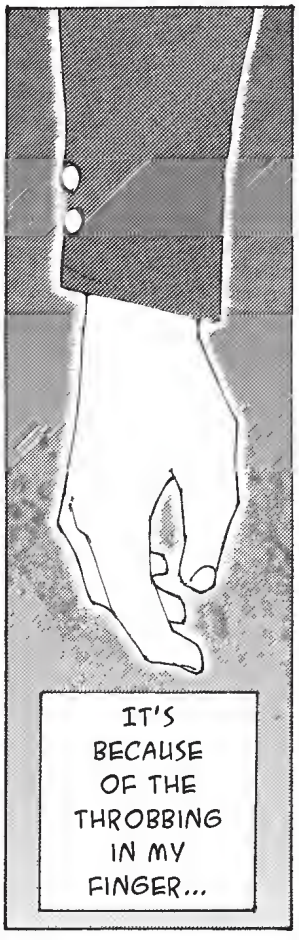
URABE!
HUH?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I GAVE YOU THE SIGN TO GO ON HOME SINCE I HAD STUFF TO DO...
I STOPPED BY THE LIBRARY AFTER SCHOOL,
SO I THOUGHT WE MIGHT BOTH FINISH AT THE SAME TIME.
OH...
I SEE...


I'M WALKING WITH URABE,
THIS IS BAD ...


BUT IMAGES OF SUWANO KEEP FLASHING INTO MY MIND...

OKAY, TSUBAKI,
OUR ROUTINE FOR TODAY ...
OH... YEAH ...
AH...

I ALMOST FEEL AS GUILTY AS IF I'D CHEAT-ED...


IT'S BECAUSE OF THE THROBBING IN MY FINGER...

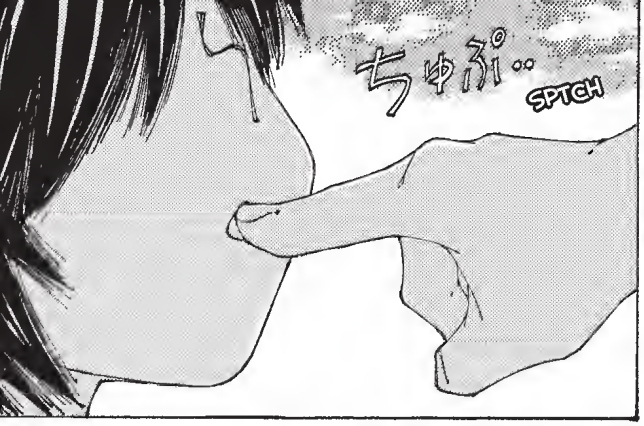
I WANT TO TRY DOING OUR ROUTINE IN A DIFFERENT WAY TODAY...
YOU ALWAYS PUT YOUR DROOL ON YOUR OWN FINGER, RIGHT?
BUT TODAY...
HEY ...
THAT'S IT!
URABE!
I...
I KINDA WANTED TO PUT...
M...
MY FINGER IN YOUR MOUTH...
IF I TOUCH URABE'S LIP...
AND, WELL ...
DO OUR ROUTINE BY PUTTING
MY FINGER IN YOUR MOUTH INSTEAD...
C...
CAN I?
MAYBE I CAN FORGET THE FEEL OF SUWANO'S LIP
AND STOP THIS THROBBING IN MY FINGER.

TSUBAKI ...
GLARE
WHY ARE YOU SUGGESTING THIS TODAY OF ALL DAYS?
AH, UH, UHM ...
W...
WELL, YOU KNOW ...
SUMMER'S GETTING CLOSE...
AND I THOUGHT IT'D BE REFRESH-INGTO MIX IT UP...
YOU STAYED AFTER SCHOOL TODAY
TO DO SOMETHING WITH SUWANO, RIGHT?
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN WITH SUWANO?
N...
NOTHING !!
SUWANO AND I JUST...
ZOOM
BA

WELL...
WHEN I WAS IN THE CLASSROOM WITH SUWANO AFTER SCHOOL...
SPLAT
WHUNK
WHIP
WHAT'S WRONG, URABE?
HUH?
AH...
WELL...
YOU JUST SUDDENLY OPENED UP AND CONFESSED SO EASILY...
WELL, EVEN IF I TRY TO PLAY DUMB,
IT'LL BE THE LIKE AL-WAYS.
YOU'LL UNLEASH YOUR PANTY SCISSORS
AND MAKE ME TELL THE TRUTH ...
WHAT HAPPENED WITH SUWANO?
WELL ?
PAT
PAT

WELL,
SO...
SUWANO PUT MY HOUSE KEY IN HER MOUTH...
AND WHEN I GRABBED IT FROM HER, I TOUCHED HER LIP,
SO THAT'S WHY...
...
...
I SEE.
SO YOU THOUGHT IF YOU TOUCHED MY LIP,
YOU COULD FORGET THE FEEL OF SUWANO'S LIP.
CORRECT.
OKAY.
HUH?
WE'LL DO IT THE WAY YOU SUGGESTED.

YOU CAN
PUT YOUR FINGER IN MY MOUTH.
HUH...
UH...
OKAY!
UH,
SO...
HERE I GO.
GO AHEAD.
SQUISH

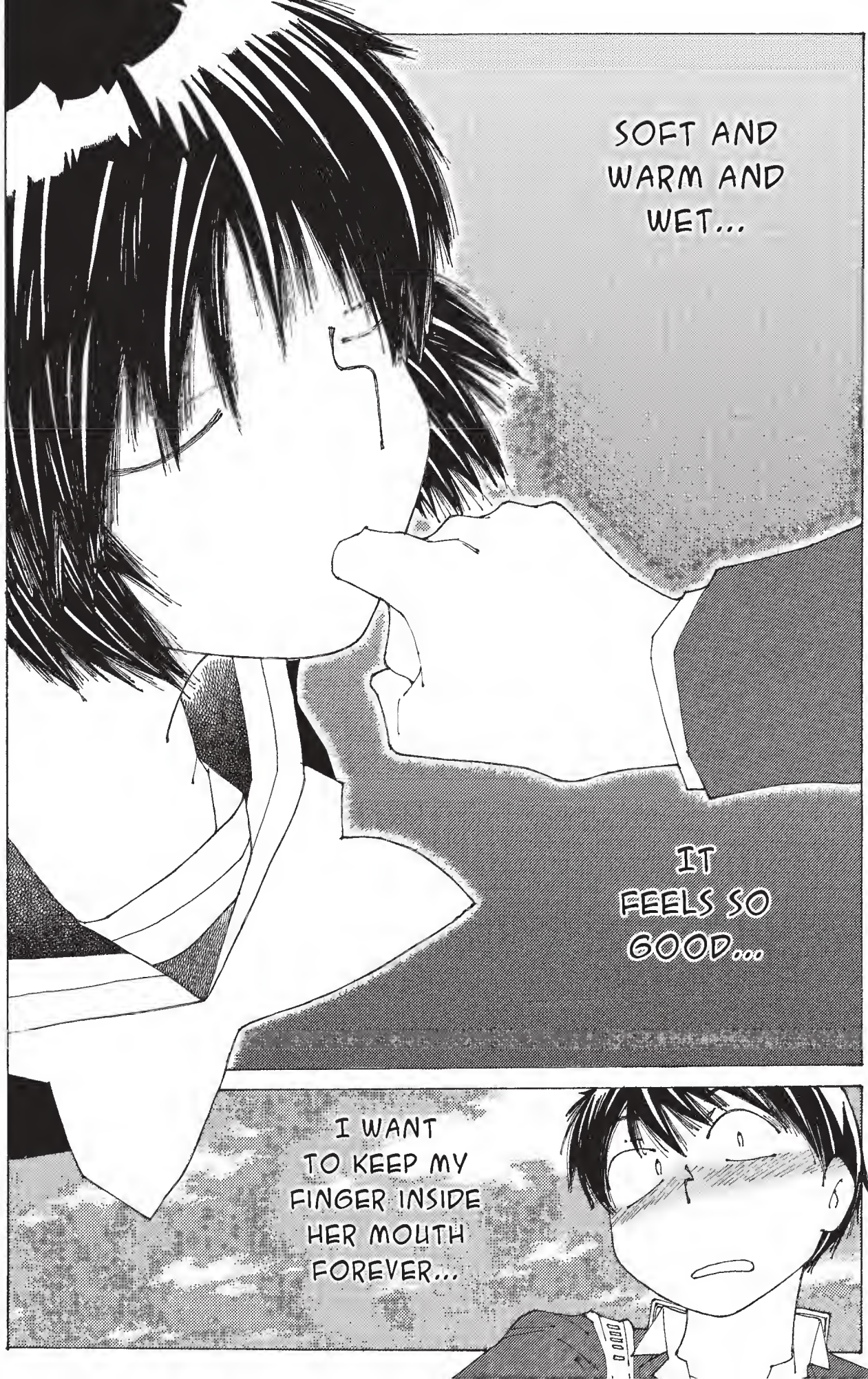

ちゅぷ..
SPTCH

WOW...
SO
SOFT...

ﾌﾞﾌﾞﾌﾞ...
PUSH

TH-THE
INSIDE
OF
URABE'S
MOUTH
IS...

ぞくぞくぞく...
SHUDDER
SHUDDER
SHUDDER


SOFT AND WARM AND WET...
IT FEELS SO GOOD...
I WANT TO KEEP MY FINGER INSIDE HER MOUTH FOREVER...

CHOMP
Y—
OW OW OW!!
YOOOOWCH!!
URABE !!
HEY!

IT WAS FEELING SO GOOD...
AND IT...
YOU LEFT TEETH MARKS!
AND THERE'S BLOOD WELLING UP!
WHAT'D YOU DO THAT FOR, ALL OF A SUDDEN?
TSUBAKI, DID IT HURT?
IT HURT LIKE CRAZY.
BUT, THANKS TO THAT...
BAD CAT COFFEE
BITTER & SWEET
ぱくっ
POK
HERE, THE ROUTINE!
PUT YOUR FINGER IN YOUR MOUTH!

YOU WERE ABLE TO FORGET
THE FEEL OF
SUWANO'S LIP,
RIGHT?!

OH... SHE'S RIGHT!
AFTER THAT PAIN, I CAN'T REMEMBER HOW SUWANO'S LIP FELT, AND THE THROBBING STOPPED!

END OF CHAPTER 56

CHAPTER 57: MYSTERIOUS SUMMER UNIFORM

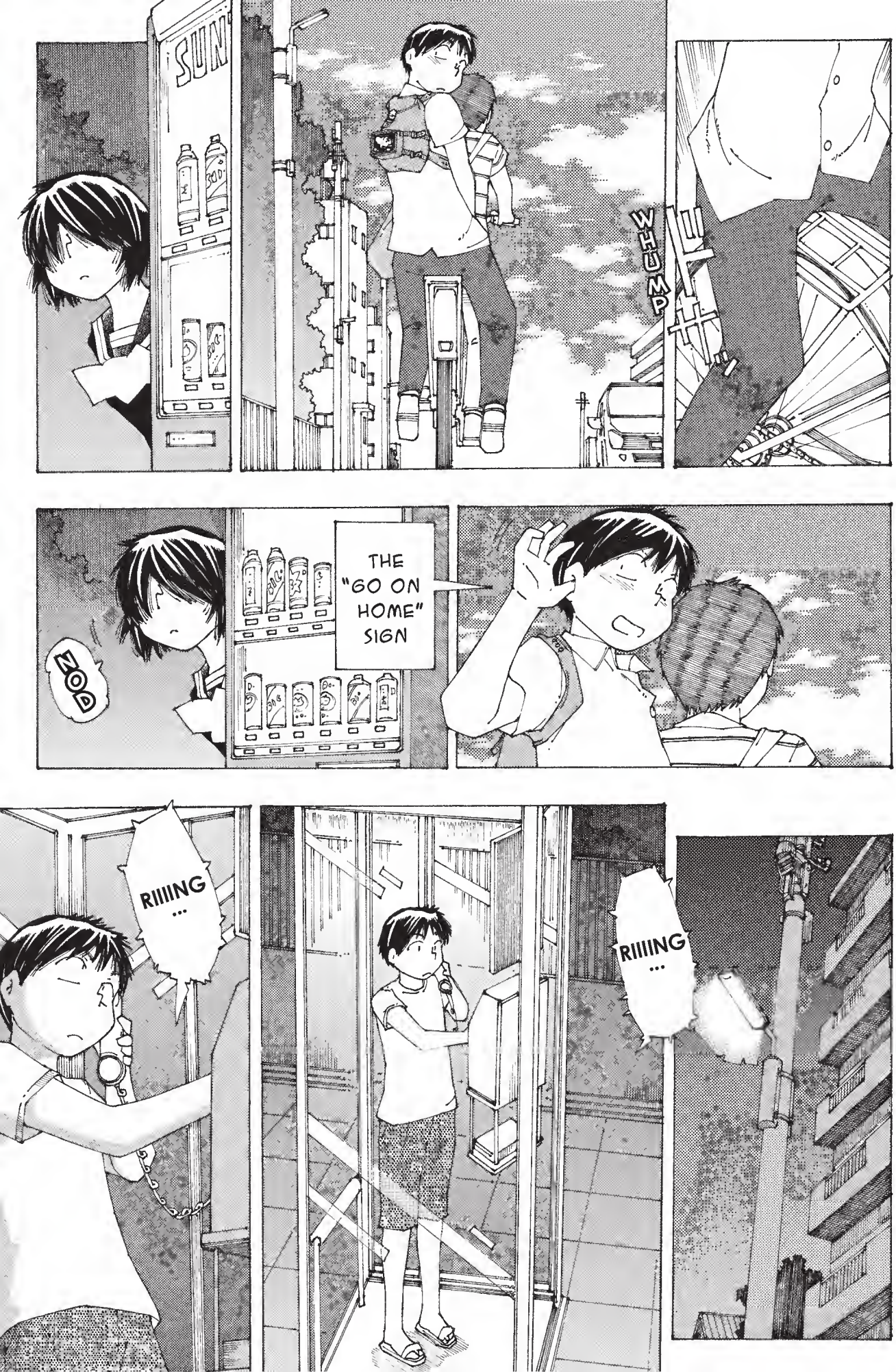
IS THE SEASON FOR SWITCHING UNIFORMS.
FROM LATE MAY THROUGH EARLY JUNE
MOST STUDENTS HAVE SWITCHED TO SUMMER UNIFORMS.
ONLY A FEW STILL WEAR THEIR WINTER ONES.
AND AS FOR MY GIRLFRIEND ...
STARE ∞
SHE'S STILL USING HER WINTER UNIFORM.

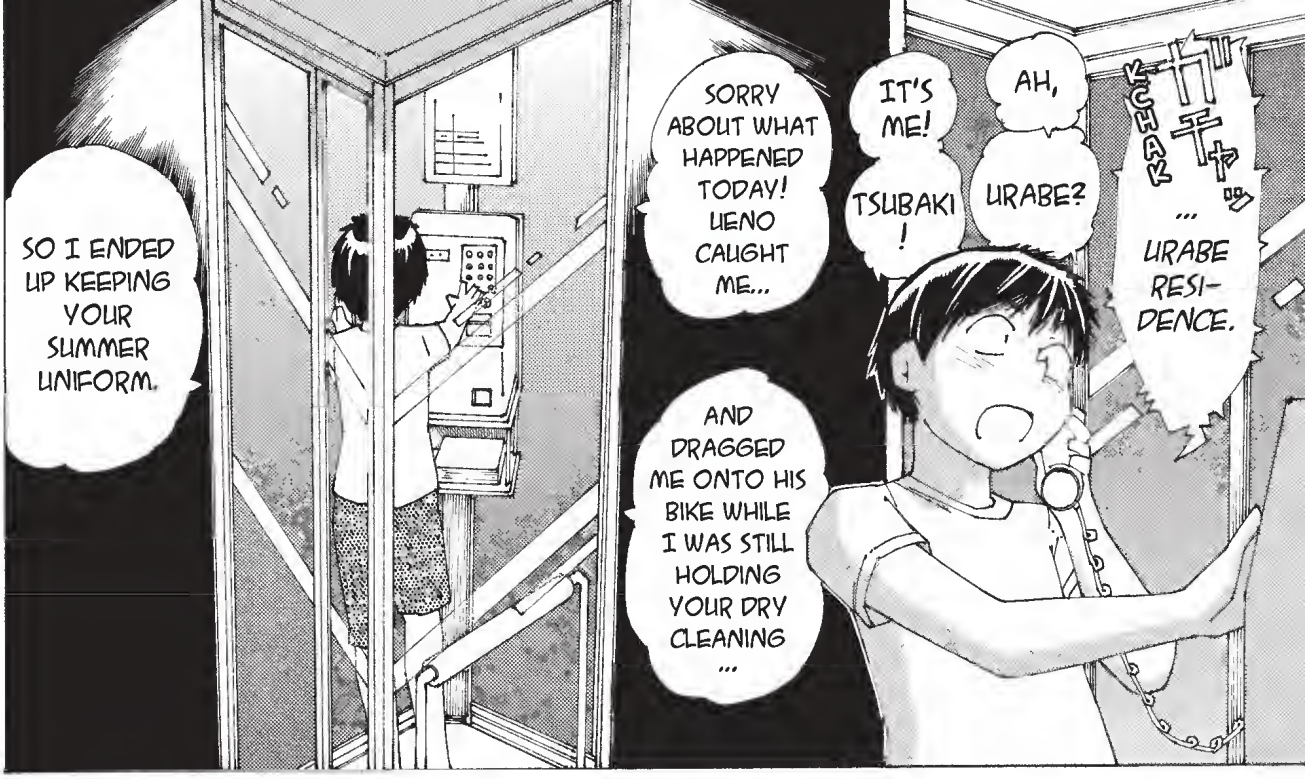
MIND IF WE MAKE A STOP ON THE WAY?
HM?
TSUBAKI.
I HOPE URABE SWITCHES TO HER SUMMER ONE SOON...
RENTAL APARTMENT BROKER
MATSUI
SMILEY
SMILEY
CLEANING
SPEED DRY CLEANING
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
YEAH.
YOU HAD SOMETHING AT THE CLEANERS?
SPEED DRY CLEANING
READY BY 4 P.
NEXT-DAY SER
DRESS SHI
SUITS
SKIRTS
CLEANERS

SO THEN,
FROM TOMOR-ROW...
THAT'S RIGHT.
WOULD IT BE
YOUR SUMMER UNIFORM?
FLUMP
OH.
TSUBAKI, HOLD THAT FOR A SECOND.
ALL RIGHT!
GRIP
I'LL SWITCH TO MY SUMMER UNIFORM.
YEAH.
IT'S BEEN GETTING PRETTY HOT.
I'M THIRSTY.
DRINK UP!

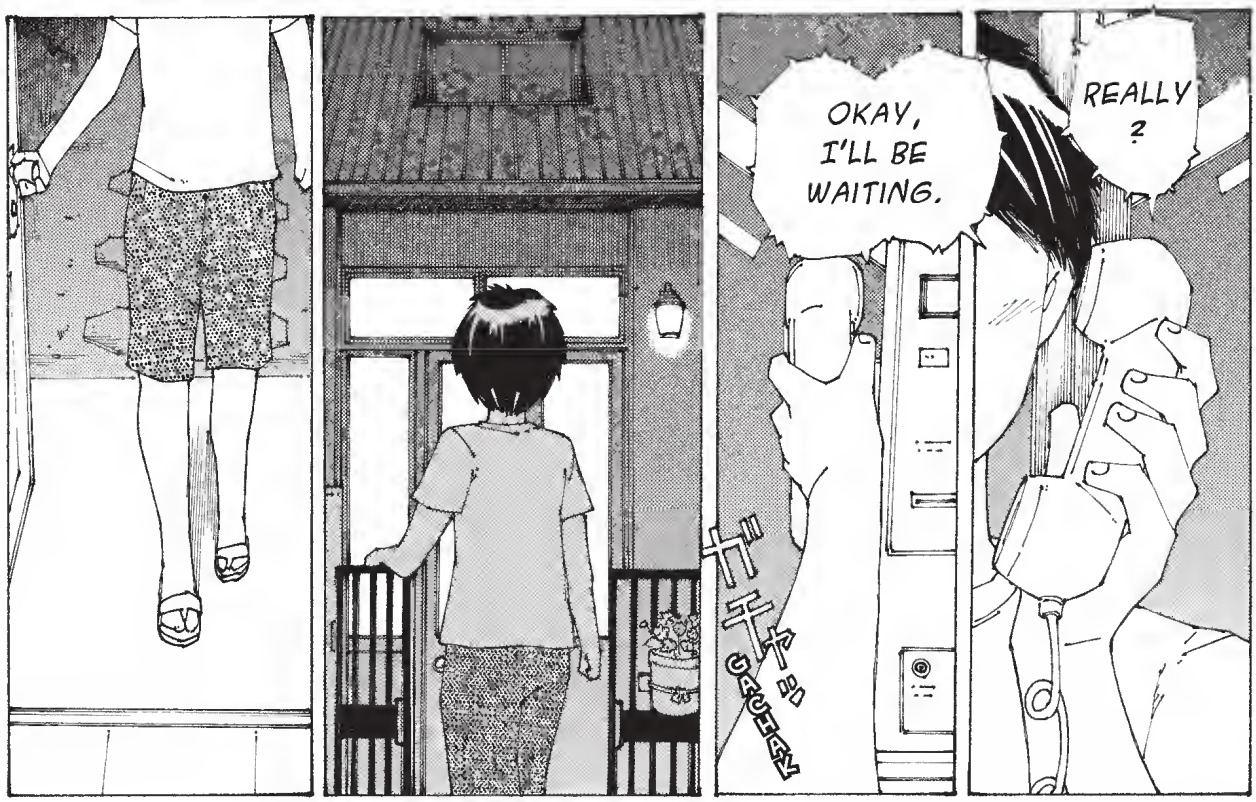
ガコーン
KAKLUNK
HERE.
THANKS.
SUN
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE ?
HUH?
MY TREAT.
UHM ...
OKAY, COFFEE, THEN.
DRINK UP!
!
GULP
UENO'S COMING!
HUH?
CRAP !
URABE, HIDE!

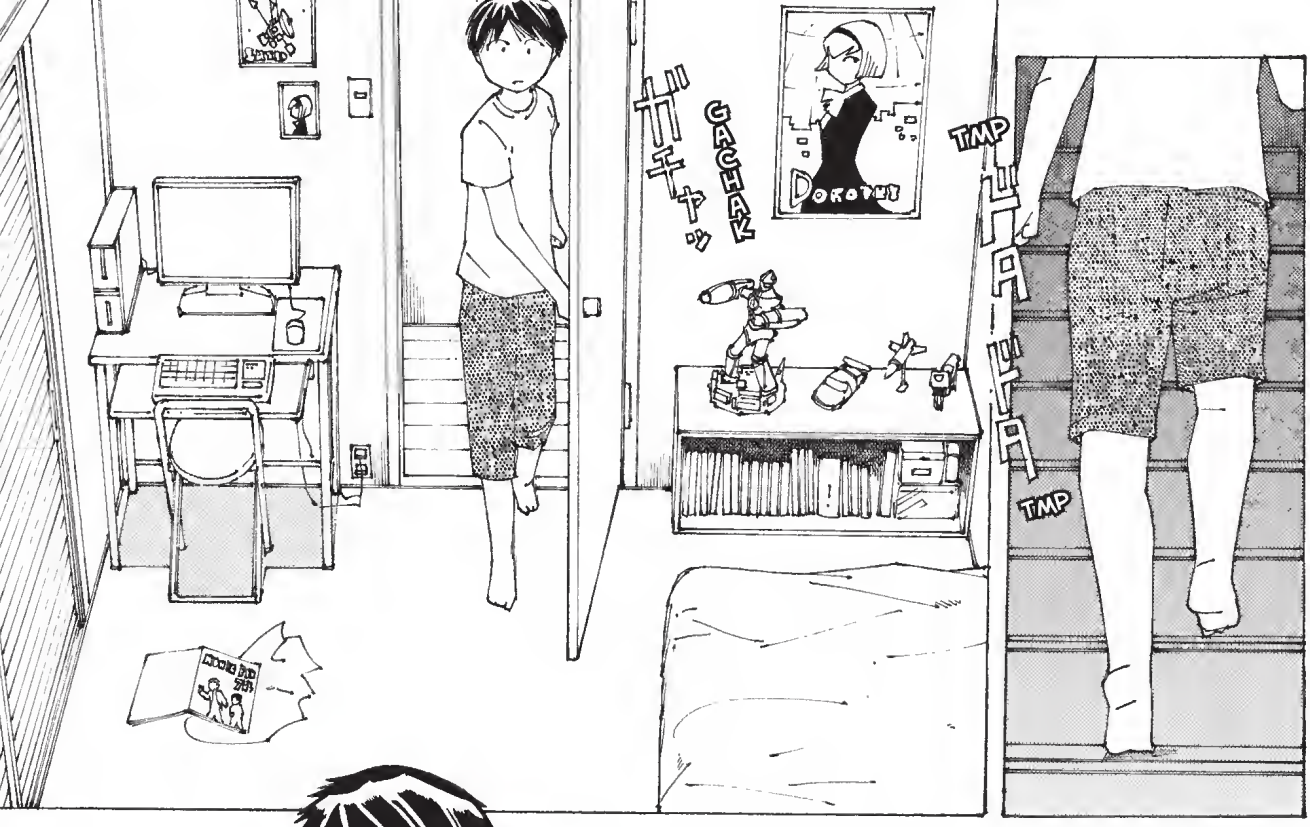
OH!
DASH
I'M ABOUT TO GO SHOPPING DOWNTOWN.
THIS IS PER-FECT!
COME WITH ME.
Y—
YO,
UENO.
TSUBAKI!
SKEE
TO SEE YOU AROUND HERE!
HOW RARE
SKY FISH
HUH?
AH...
W-WAIT!
COME ON!
HOP ON! HOP ON!


SUN
WHUMP
THE "GO ON HOME" SIGN
ZOD
RIIIING...
RIIIING...

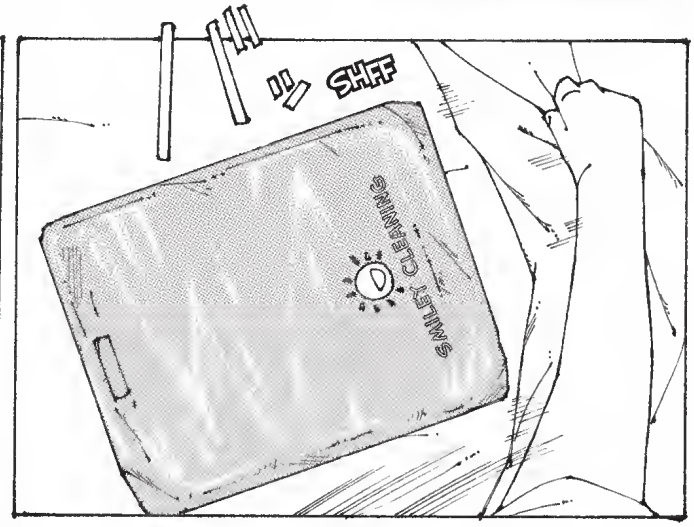

KCHAK
...URABE RESI-DENCE.
AH, URABE?
IT'S ME! TSUBAKI!
SORRY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TODAY! UENO CAUGHT ME...
AND DRAGGED ME ONTO HIS BIKE WHILE I WAS STILL HOLDING YOUR DRY CLEANING ...
SO I ENDED UP KEEPING YOUR SUMMER UNIFORM.

SO,
I'LL STOP BY YOUR PLACE TOMORROW BEFORE SCHOOL
AND GIVE IT TO YOU, IF THAT'S ALL RIGHT...


REALLY?
OKAY, I'LL BE WAITING.
GATA


GACHAK
TMP
TMP
DOKOTSU

AND THAT'S WHY...
RUSTLE


SHFF
SMILEY CLEANING

I'LL TAKE IT OUT OF THE PLASTIC JUST A LITTLE.
I...
IS HERE IN FRONT OF ME NOW...
URABE'S SUMMER UNIFORM
BETTER NOT TEAR THE PLASTIC...
SHFF...

IT SMELLS REALLY NICE...
AHH ...
IT'S SATURATED WITH URABE'S SCENT.
SNIFF
THAT'S ONE LINE I WON'T CROSS!
I'M NOT GOING TO DO ANYTHING WEIRD WITH IT!
EVEN THOUGH URABE'S UNIFORM IS IN MY ROOM NOW...
BUT...
A HUG!
AND GIVE IT
LET ME IMAGINE THIS UNIFORM IS REALLY URABE
JUST ONCE,
KLAK

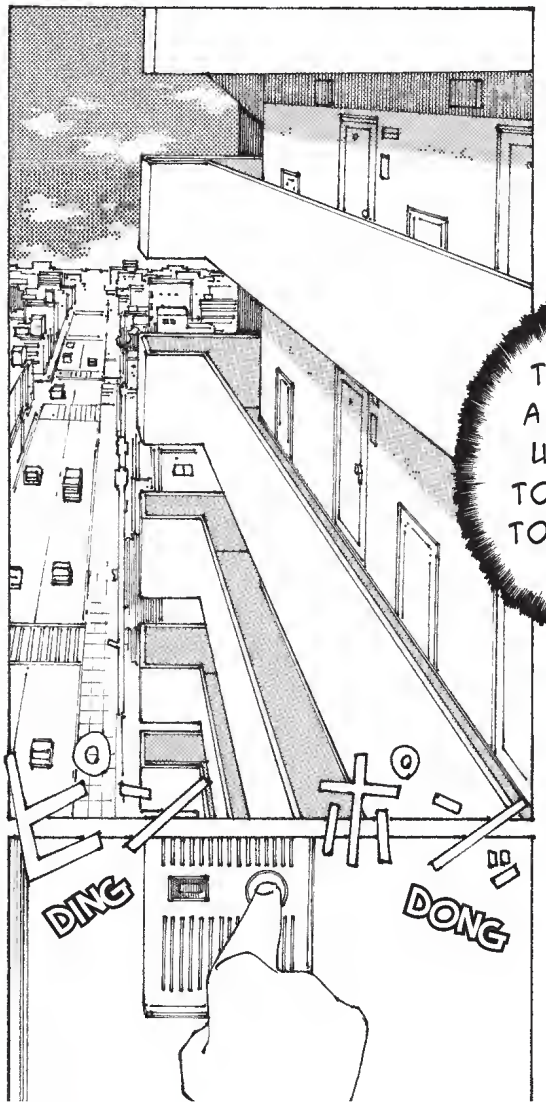
URA...
REACH
AKIRA !
I'M OPENING THE DOOR!
THUMP
THUMP
WHAT ?!
IT'S YOUKO !!
AH...
WAIT!
GRAB
DON'T OPEN IT!
HUH ?!
SATURN
ARE YOU CHANGING ?
UNDER THE BED...
UHH ...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING ?
WHAT ?

BUMP
SHOVE
SPLAAASH
POTHOS
GAAAH!!!!
ARE YOU READY?
I'M OPENING THE DOOR.
AKIRA,
HERE'S YOUR LAUNDRY.

AND I'M NOT PUTTING IT AWAY.
YOU SAY THAT, BUT YOU ALWAYS LEAVE IT SITTING OUT!
I... I COULD'VE GONE TO GET IT MYSELF!!
MOVIE FUN JUICE
POINTS
OKAY, I'LL LEAVE IT HERE.
BTAM
YANK
SEX

OH, NO...
PRESS
THE DRINK SPILLED ALL OVER IT...
HOW AM I GONNA APOLOGIZE TO URABE?
AND NOW,
SHE WON'T BE ABLE TO WEAR HER SUMMER UNIFORM TOMORROW ...

URABE...
I'M SORRY,


DING
DONG

FOR URABE
THERE MIGHT BE ONE WAY
TO WEAR A SUMMER UNIFORM TO SCHOOL TOMORROW !

!

HM ?!
WAIT A SEC!

MORNING, TSUBAKI.
M...
MORN-ING, URABE.
ガチャ
GACHAK
I ACCIDENTALLY SPILLED MY DRINK ON IT YESTERDAY ...
I'M SORRY!!
THANKS
FOR BRING-ING MY UNI-FORM.
WELL, ABOUT THAT...
UHM ...
AND HOW
DID YOU SPILL A DRINK ON IT?
GLARE

THEN MY SISTER CAME IN, AND I KNOCKED OVER THE BOTTLE...
TOOK IT OUT OF THE PLASTIC A LITTLE...
I JUST...
I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING TO YOUR UNIFORM!
I—
I SWEAR,
MY SISTER CAME IN BEFORE I COULD...
IT'S TRUE THAT I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING!
REPLACEMENT?
I FELT BAD ABOUT THAT...
IN FACT,
OH!
THIS STAIN SHOULD COME OUT IF I SEND IT TO THE CLEANERS AGAIN.
IT'S FINE.
YEAH.
I'LL JUST WEAR MY WINTER UNIFORM UNTIL THEN...
SO I BROUGHT A REPLACEMENT.

MY SISTER'S UNIFORM.
THIS WAS
HUH?
WHAT'S THIS?
SEEING HER SUMMER UNIFORM IN THE CLOSET IN OUR TATAMI-FLOOR ROOM...
AND I REMEMBERED
MY SISTER WENT TO KAZAMIDAI HIGH...
TSUBAKI → YOUKO
17
I DON'T THINK SHE'LL NOTICE IF IT'S ONLY GONE A FEW DAYS...
YOU'RE SURE I CAN BORROW THIS ...?
AND BROUGHT IT HERE.
I SNUCK IT OUT LATE LAST NIGHT

I'LL BORROW THIS WHILE
MY UNIFORM IS AT THE CLEANERS.
WELL, SINCE YOU BROUGHT IT,
HMM.
THE SIZE IS ALMOST THE SAME.
IT'S NICE...!
REALLY?
GLAD TO HEAR IT!
URABE, HOW WAS IT?
WEARING A... REPLACEMENT UNIFORM TODAY...

SHLP
WELL, TSUBAKI,
LET'S DO OUR ROUTINE.
OKAY.
HERE.
WHA ...

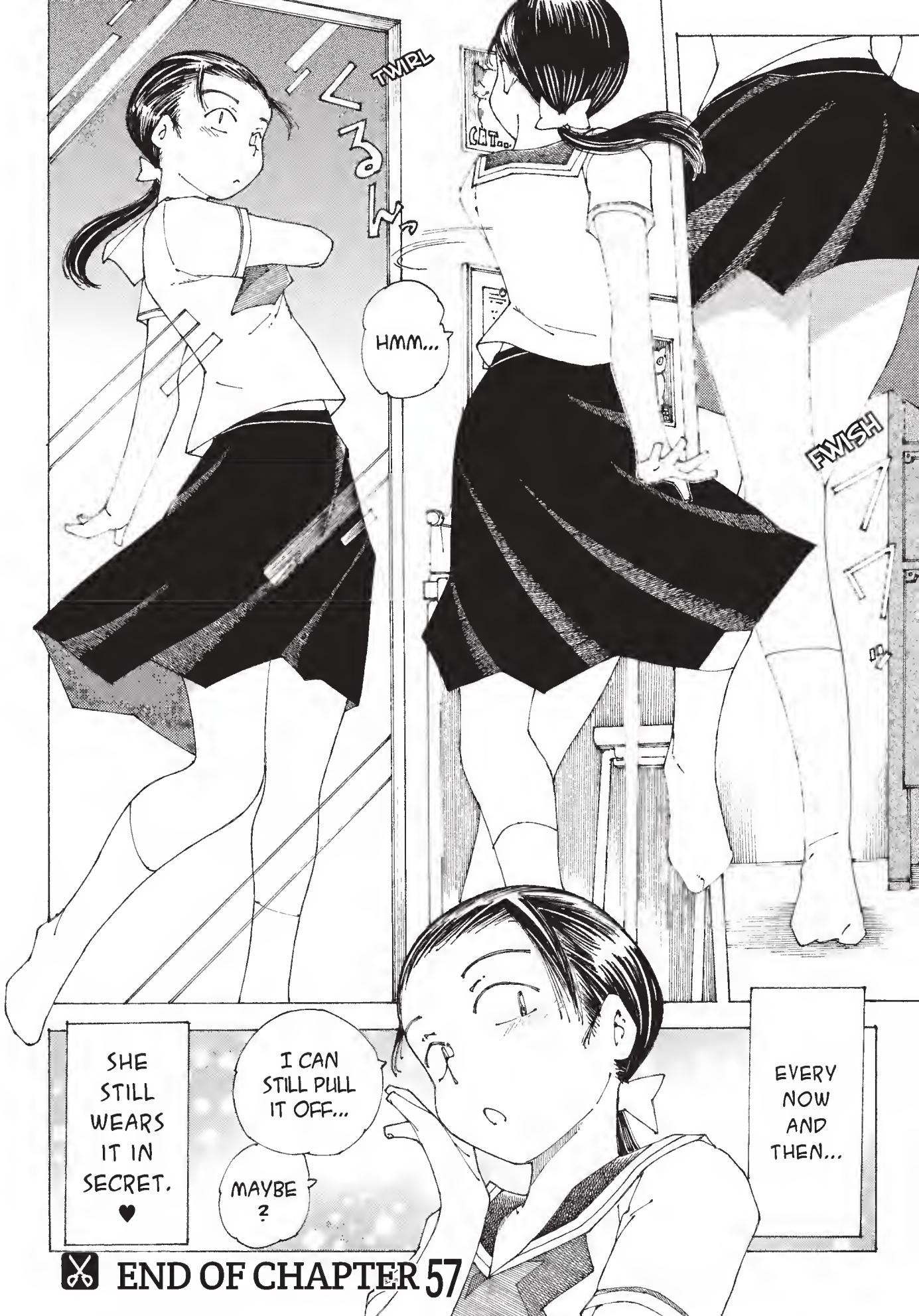
TSU-
BAKI?
WHAT'S WRONG,
?
YO—
WAS IT BECAUSE...
LOOKED LIKE MY SISTER...
WH...
FOR A SECOND,
URABE JUST...
WHAT?
WHAT'S WRONG?
YOU JUST MADE A WEIRD NOISE.
WEARING MY SISTER'S UNIFORM ...?
URABE IS...

I CAN'T THINK OF ANY OTHER REASON...
BUT I'M SURE I JUST SAW HER.
WAS SOME-THING WRONG WITH OUR ROUTINE TODAY?
HUH?
NO...
OH...
DO YOU THINK I COULD BORROW THIS FOR THE WHOLE SUMMER?
IF IT'S ALL RIGHT...
HEY, TSUBAKI,
IT JUST FITS SO WELL...
AND I'D LIKE TO TRY SPENDING A SUMMER IN YOUR SISTER'S UNIFORM...
HUH ...?
IT DID SEEM A LITTLE D-DIFFERENT FROM USUAL.
W-WELL ...
IS IT... BECAUSE OF THIS UNIFORM?
I DO ?

NO, NO, NO!!
NO WAY!
I MEAN...
WELL...
IF THINGS GO WELL WITH URABE THIS SUMMER,
AND THEN WE'RE ABOUT TO KISS...
THEN HER DROOL WOULD NATURALLY TOUCH MY LIPS...
AND IF SHE'S IN THIS UNIFORM...
?

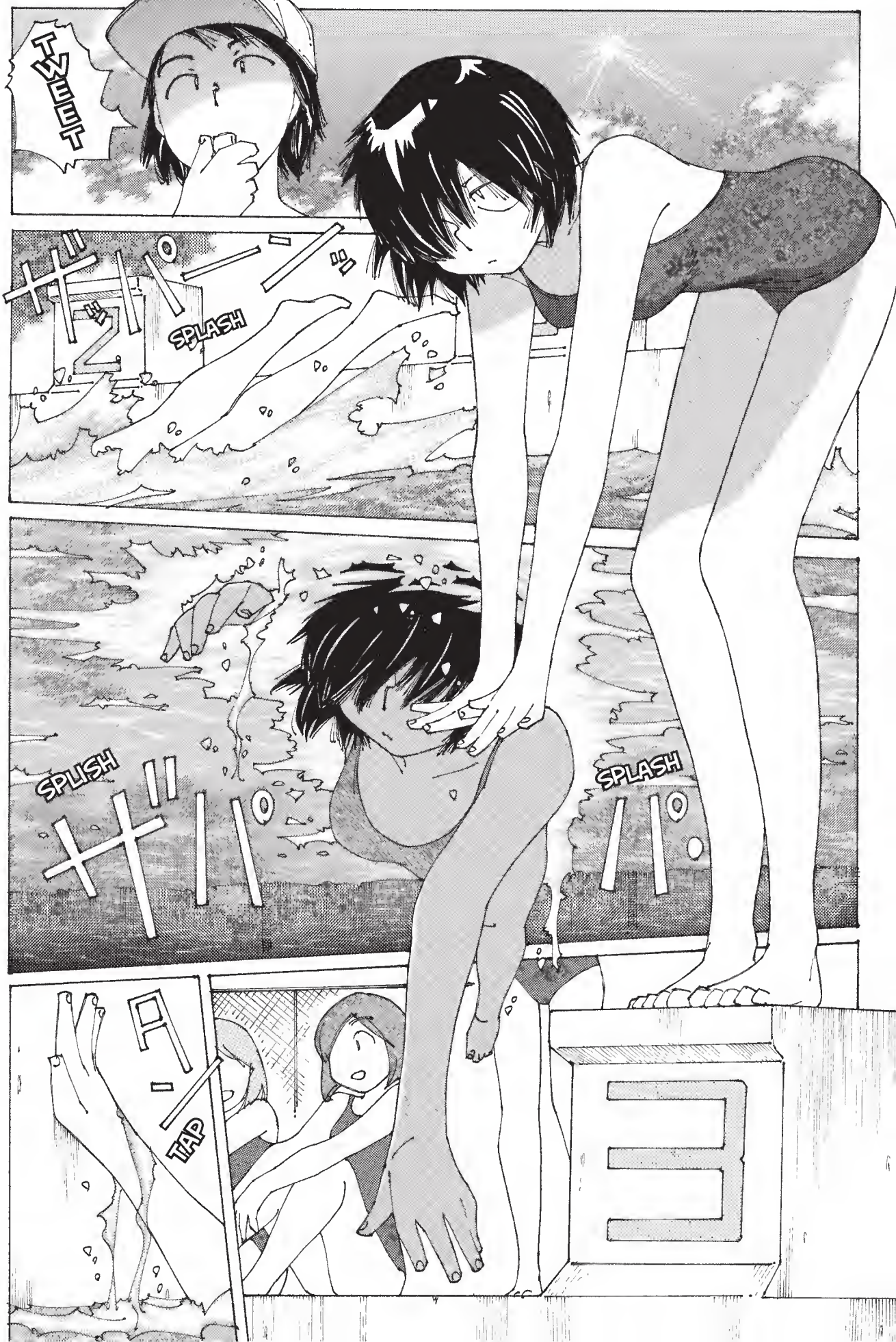
I TOOK THAT UNIFORM WITHOUT MY SISTER'S PERMISSION,
IT WOULD BE THE SAME AS KISSING MY SISTER!
DON'T EVEN JOKE ABOUT THAT!!
SO THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN USE IT ALL SUMMER!
OH...
ANYWAY...

WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN BETWEEN ME AND URABE...
THERE'S NO TELLING
SINCE IT IS SUMMER,
THE WAY SHE LOOKS NOW IS JUST WEIRD...
SEEING HER IN HER SCHOOL UNIFORM
BUT...
EVEN IF SHE LOOKED LIKE MY SISTER, WHY WAS HER HAIR LIKE THAT?
SHE WORE HER HAIR DIFFERENTLY WHEN SHE WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL...
THE REASON FOR THAT IS ...
Talk's Room
SLEEPING!



END OF CHAPTER 57

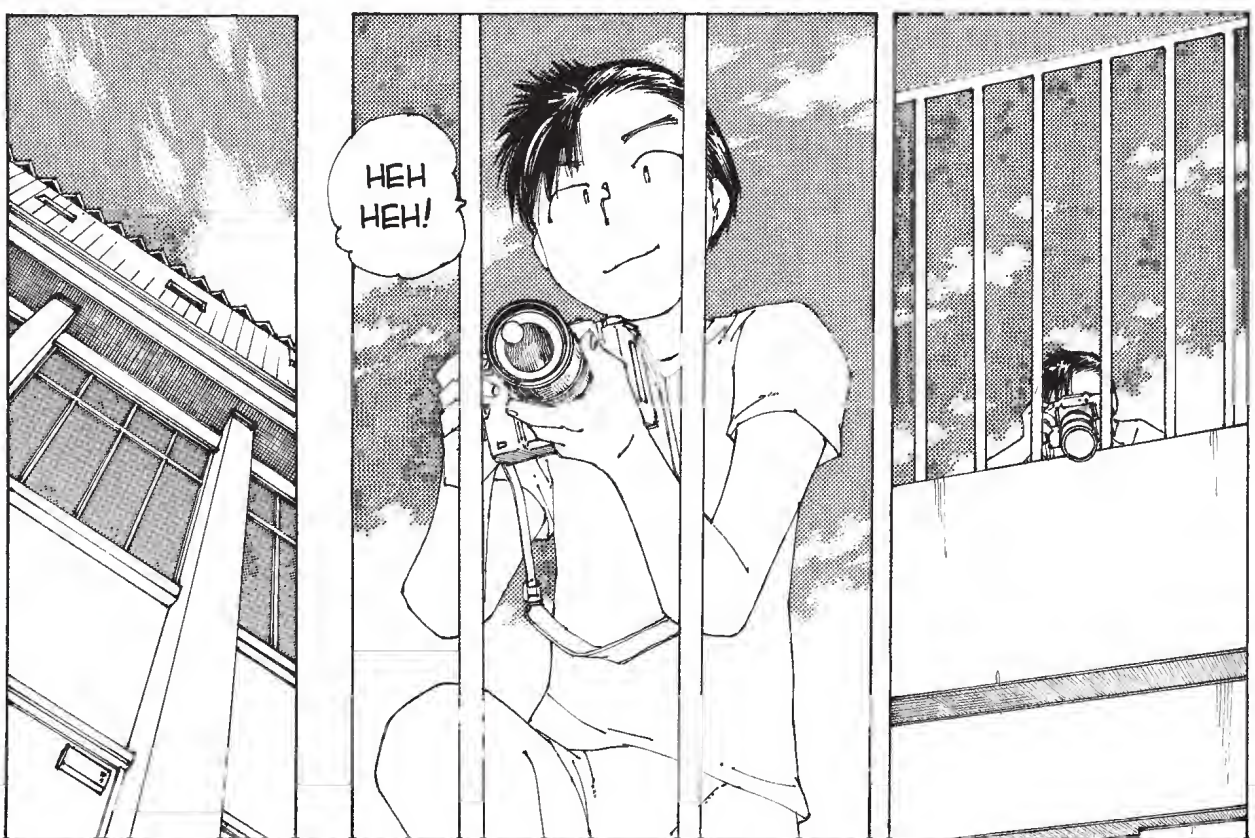
CHAPTER 58: MYSTERIOUS SWIM MEET (PART 1)

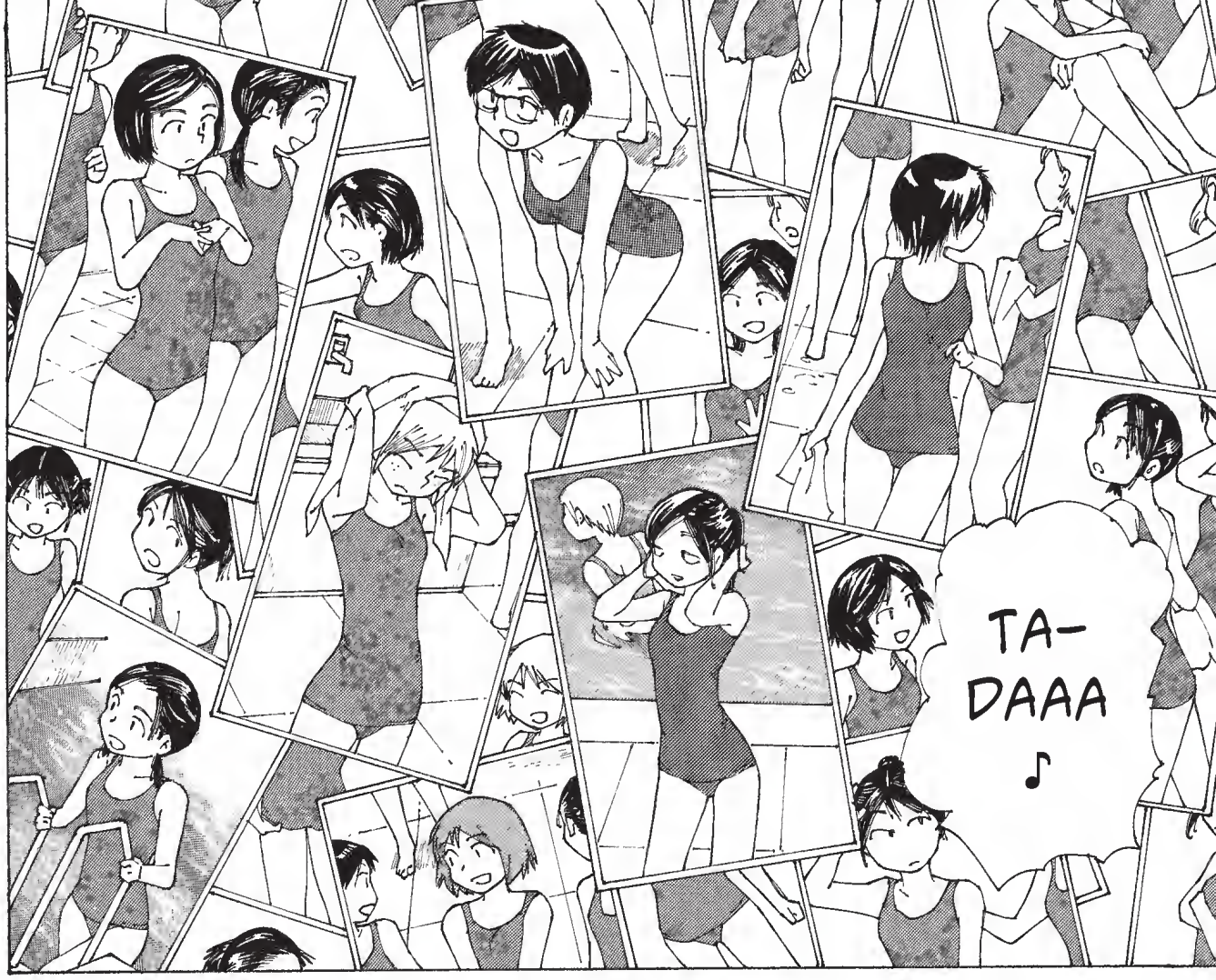

TWEET
SPLASH
SPLISH
SPLASH
TAP

URABE, YOU SURE ARE A GOOD SWIMMER!
I THINK YOU GOT THE FASTEST TIME IN THE CLASS!
YEAH!
SPLASH
YOU'RE SO FAST !!
SUPPOSE
I WAS CONFIDENT IN MY SWIMMING ABILITY,
BUT YOUR CRAWL WAS MUCH FASTER JUST NOW.

SUWANO
YOU WERE ON THE SWIM TEAM IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, RIGHT?
YEAH!
WELL, NOW WE KNOW YOU TWO ARE THE FASTEST IN THE CLASS.
SO THE GIRLS REPRESENTING OUR CLASS IN THE INTRAMURALS
WILL DEFINITELY BE
URABE AND SUWANO!
BY THE WAY,
OKA...
WHY ARE YOU
WEARING YOUR GLASSES AT THE POOL?
HUH?
THAT'S ...
SPLASH

TWEET
SPLISH
SPLASH
SO I CAN GET A GOOD LOOK AT YOU IN YOUR SWIMSUIT!!
DAZZLE
キラーン✧
STARE
じ〜っ♡


HEH HEH!


TA-
DAAA
♪

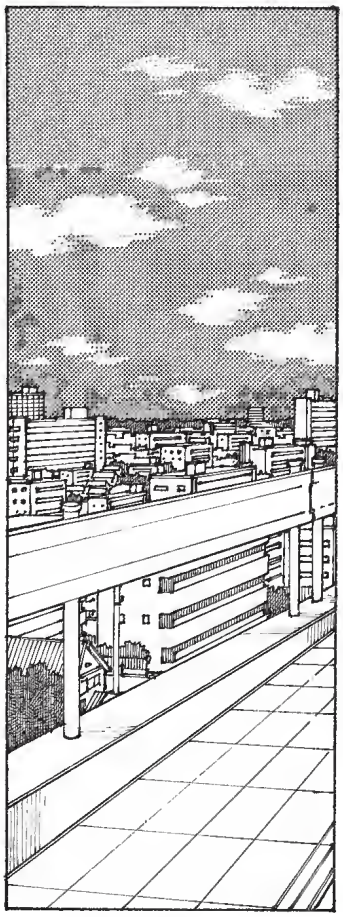
WHEN DID YOU TAKE THESE?!
PICS OF THE GIRLS IN SWIM-SUITS!
WHOA!
YEP!
I WENT UP ON THE ROOF AND TOOK PICTURES OF THE POOL!
DURING GYM YESTERDAY, YOU SAID YOU FELT SICK AND WENT TO THE NURSE'S OFFICE...
OH, NOW I GET IT!

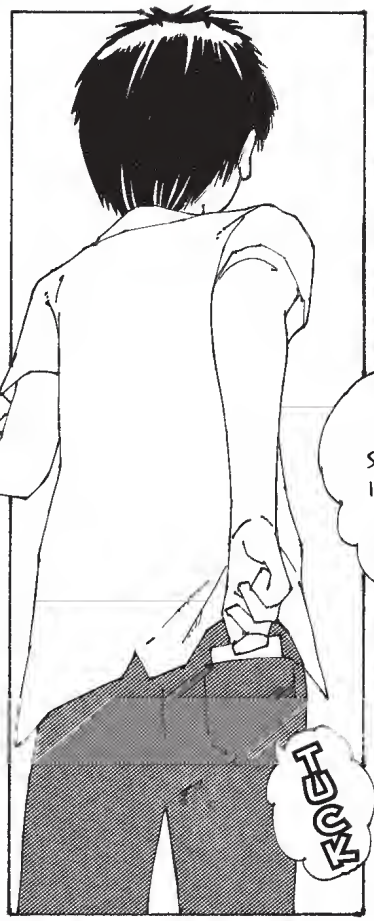
DAMN NAKAJIMA FROM THE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB, RUNNING HIS CROOKED BUSINESS AGAIN...
AH!
I WANT THIS ONE!
WHEN I SEE THEM THIS WAY,
THE GIRLS IN OUR CLASS HAVE PRETTY NICE BODIES.
I'LL MAKE MORE COPIES OF THE MOST POPULAR ONES.
300 YEN PER PHOTO!
OKAY!
OH, UENO'S SUPER PISSED, TOO.
I'M SURE HE WANTS A PICTURE OF OKA...
BUT THEY'RE KEEPING THEIR RELATIONSHIP A SECRET, TOO...
I'LL...
I WANT A PICTURE OF URABE, TOO,
BUT IF I SAY THAT, PEOPLE MIGHT FIGURE OUT THAT WE'RE DATING...

I'LL TAKE ALL OF THEM !!
HUH?
YOU MEAN ...
ONE OF EACH GIRL?
THAT'S RIGHT!
GIVE ME ONE OF EACH GIRL!

EVERY GIRL? YOU'RE PRETTY GREEDY ...
NOT TO MEN-TION,
THERE ARE 20 GIRLS IN OUR CLASS, SO THAT'S 6,000 YEN!
I DON'T CARE!
I'LL PAY YOU IN FULL TOMORROW! JUST GIVE ME THEM ALL!
I GET IT... IF HE BUYS ALL OF THEM, NO ONE WILL KNOW WHO HE'S DATING!
I'M THE TYPE THAT NEEDS A FULL SET
TO FEEL SATISFIED!
6,000 YEN IS A LOT, BUT IF IT'D GET ME A PIC OF URABE IN HER SWIMSUIT...
UH!
ONE OF...
ME, TOO!
WHIP
HERE,
TSUBAKI!

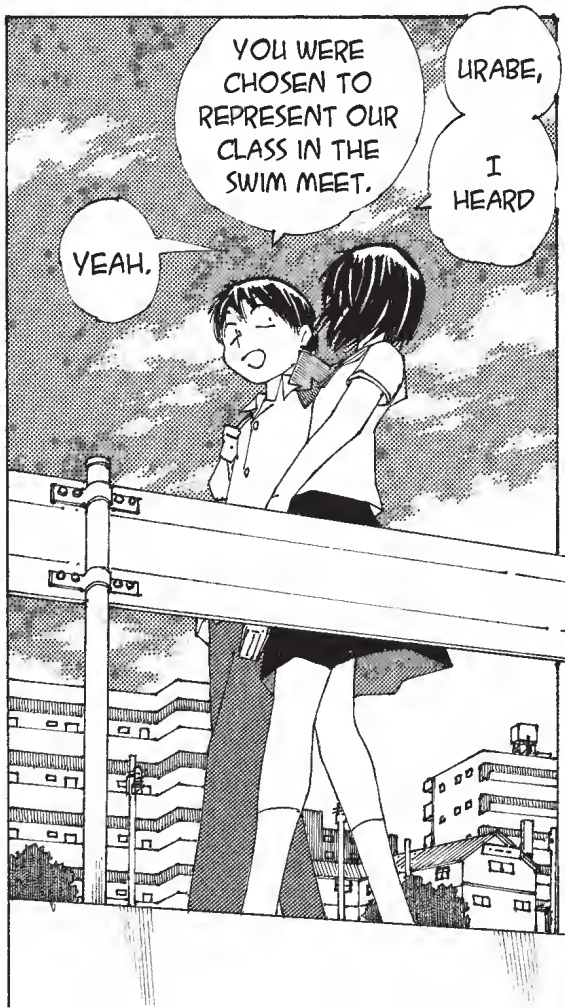
HUH ...?!
YOU WANT
THIS ONE, RIGHT?
WH...
A PIC OF SUWANO ?
WHY WOULD I WANT SUWANO'S PICTURE?
BECAUSE
YOU LIKE SUWANO, DON'T YOU?
WHAT ?!
I—
I DON'T LIKE SUWANO !!
NO WAY !
DON'T BE SHY!
YOU AND SUWANO SHARE THE SAME CLASS DUTIES.
YOU ALWAYS LOOK LIKE YOU'RE HAVING FUN TOGETHER !
UH...?
HEY...
HERE.
I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU, FREE OF CHARGE !
TAKE IT!
ｸﾞｲｯ
ｸﾞｲｯ




FUCK

WELL, DAMN...
IT WAS JUST A MISUNDER-STANDING...
WELL, SURE, SUWANO IS CUTE, TOO, BUT...

YOU ARE A GOOD SWIMMER, AFTER ALL.
WELL,

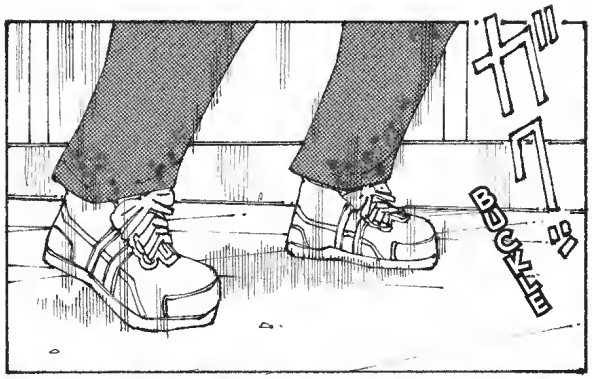

URABE, I HEARD
YOU WERE CHOSEN TO REPRESENT OUR CLASS IN THE SWIM MEET.
YEAH.

YEAH.
WHEN I'M IN THE WATER,
MY BODY FEELS LIGHTER,
AND IT MAKES ME FEEL LIKE MY HEART IS LIGHTER, TOO.
I LOVE SWIMMING...

EVEN IF IT'S JUST WITH A DRINK...
TO CELEBRATE YOU BEING CHOSEN!
YEAH.
SUNTORY
DRINK UP!
YOU SURE?
MY TREAT.
ARE YOU THIRSTY?
AH,
GOOD
FLOP
!
ICED COFFEE,
BLACK, RIGHT?
SLIP
SUNTORY
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE?
I'LL HAVE ICED COFFEE.
BLACK.
DRINK UP!

WHIP
GAKUNK
BA BLA
COFF
YOUR COF-FEE.
HERE!

SURE.
OKAY, URABE,
LET'S DO OUR ROUTINE.
THANKS ...
HERE.
SIGH
SIGH...


ガクッ
BUCKLE

THE MOMENT I TASTED HER DROOL,
IT FELT LIKE SOMETHING HEAVY DROPPED DOWN ON ME...
HUH?! WH-WHAT IS THIS?!

SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW.
WELL, TSUBAKI,
UH...
YEAH.

ズーン
ZWOOM
SLUMP
ガク

I'M HOME.
SHFF
MY BODY FEELS SO HEAVY...
I WONDER IF URABE WASN'T FEELING WELL TODAY?
FOR SOME REASON, I...
OW, OW...
HUH?
DIG
DON'T TELL ME...
OH, NO...
TO BUY COFFEE ON THE WAY HOME?!
WHEN I PULLED OUT MY WALLET
DID I DROP IT SOMEWHERE?!
WHAT?!
THE PHOTO...
THE PHOTO NAKAJIMA GAVE ME IS GONE!

THAT WOULD EXPLAIN THIS HEAVY FEELING ALL OVER MY BODY!!
AND URABE PICKED IT UP...
IF I DROPPED IT THEN
I'LL HAVE TO
CLEAR UP THE MISUNDER-STANDING WITH HER TOMORROW ...
YESTER-DAY...
LISTEN, URABE...
UH,

DID YOU PICK UP A PHOTO THAT FELL OUT OF MY POCKET?
OKAY, LET ME EXPLAIN THIS.
AHEM
I KNEW IT...
I DON'T HAVE THIS PHOTO BECAUSE I WANTED IT!
NAKAJIMA FROM THE PHOTO CLUB GOT THE WRONG IDEA,
AND HE PUSHED IT INTO MY HAND,
WHICH IS WHY I HAVE IT.

IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!
LIKE I SAID!
BUT SUWANO IS PRETTY ...
AND YOU HAVE THE SAME CLASS DUTIES...
NOW, OUR DAILY ROUTINE...
IF YOU THINK I'M INTERESTED IN SUWANO,
THAT'S A TOTAL MISUN-DER-STANDING!
HERE.
SHLP
TRUST ME!

WELL, CLEARLY,
THE MISUNDERSTANDING ISN'T CLEARED UP...
ズシッ...
ZWOOOM
SKY FISH
OW...
OWW...
SO HEAVY...
TAP
TAP
SPLASH
SPLASH

1
2
3
4
5
6
SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH
YOU ARE... TAKING THIS SERIOUSLY, RIGHT?
YOUR SPEED HAS SUDDENLY DROPPED LATELY...
HAA
HAA
UH...
WHAT'S WRONG, URABE?
ZPLAASH
GASP
TAP
I FEEL... HEAVY FOR SOME REASON...
HAA
HAA
ARE YOU FEELING SICK?

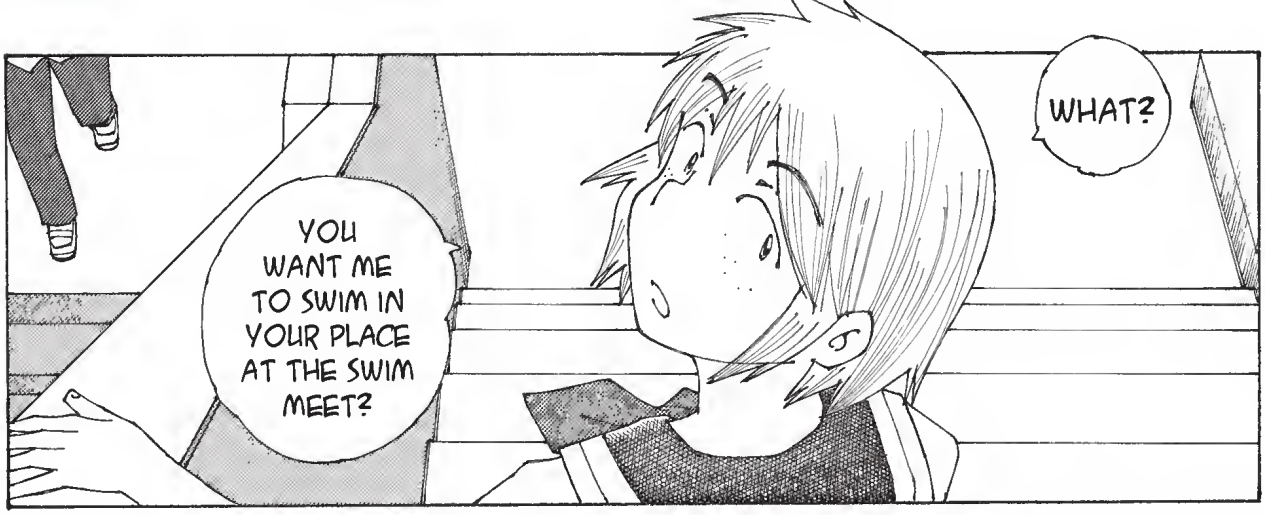
NO—
WHISPER
HAPPEN WITH TSUBAKI?
DID SOME-THING
SPLASH
SWOOSH
I DON'T THINK IT'S JUST A PHYSICAL PROBLEM...
AS LONG AS YOU CAN GIVE YOUR ALL AT THE MEET, IT'LL BE FINE!
EVEN IF YOU DON'T FEEL WELL NOW,
WELL, DON'T OVERDO IT, URABE.
WHAT'S WRONG, TSUBAKI?
STIFF SHOULDERS ?
HM?
OW...

ARE YOU FEELING SICK?
I JUST FEEL HEAVY ALL OVER...
NO, IT'S NOT MY SHOULDERS ...
WELL ...
I DON'T THINK IT'S JUST A PHYSICAL PROBLEM ...
URABE SAID THE EXACT SAME THING.
TODAY, IN SWIM CLASS,
JUST A COINCI-DENCE...
キュン
WHAT'S SO FUNNY, ALL OF A SUDDEN?
HA HA!

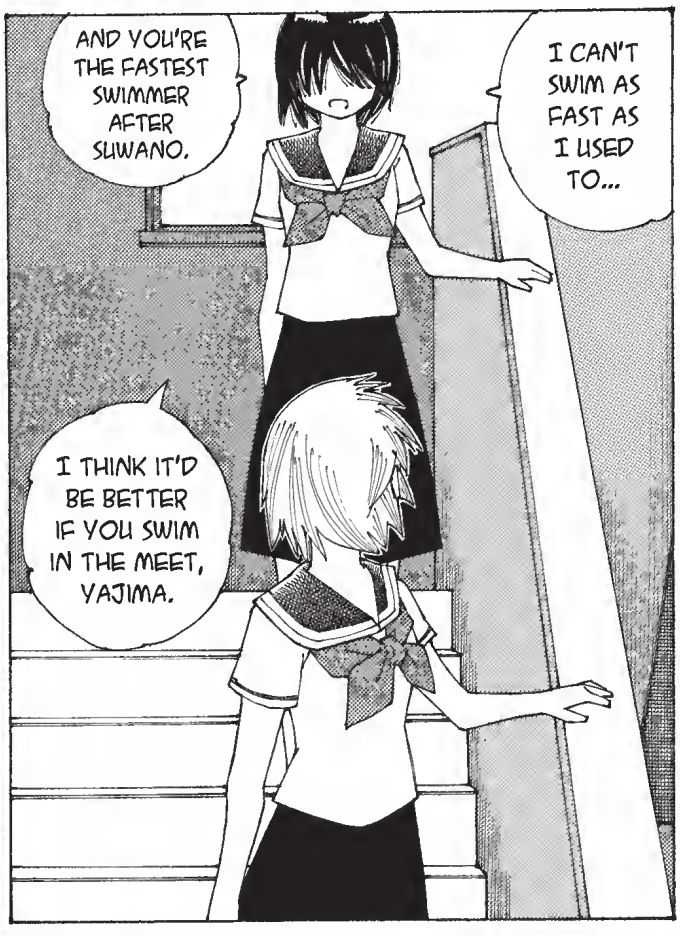
WHAT?
REALLY?!
SO HER LAP TIMES HAVE DROPPED.
URABE HASN'T BEEN FEELING WELL,
THAT'S WHY
THERE'S BEEN TALK
ABOUT RELIEVING HER AS THE CLASS REP...
AND IT MAKES ME FEEL LIKE MY HEART IS LIGHTER, TOO.
MY BODY FEELS LIGHTER,
WHEN I'M IN THE WATER,
I LOVE SWIMMING...
HAVE URABE'S TIMES BEEN DROPPING
WHAT?!
BECAUSE I HAD THAT PICTURE OF SUWANO?!

END OF CHAPTER 58

CHAPTER 59: MYSTERIOUS SWIM MEET (PART 2)


WHAT?
YOU WANT ME TO SWIM IN YOUR PLACE AT THE SWIM MEET?

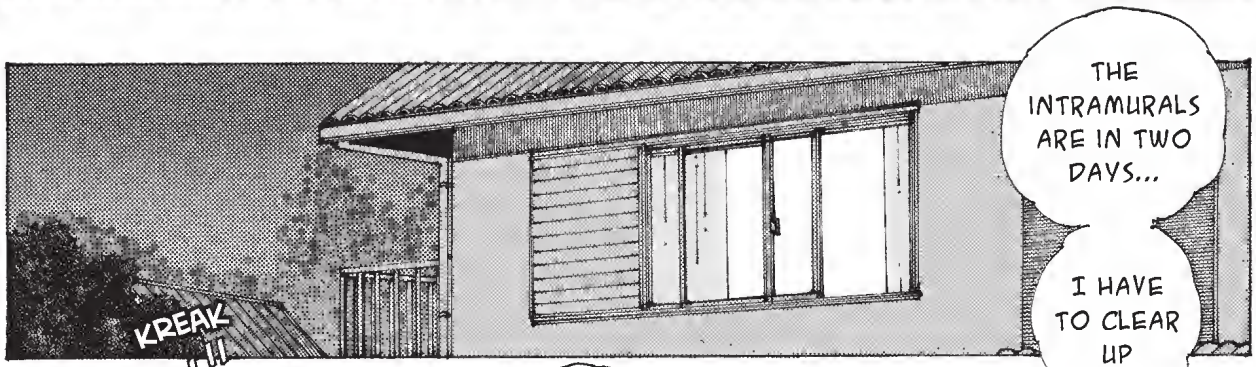
THAT SUBJECT WAS DROPPED ALREADY!
OH,
YOU GUYS HAVE BEEN TALKING ABOUT REPLACING ME ANYWAY, RIGHT?


I CAN'T SWIM AS FAST AS I USED TO...
AND YOU'RE THE FASTEST SWIMMER AFTER SUWANO.
I THINK IT'D BE BETTER IF YOU SWIM IN THE MEET, YAJIMA.

DROPPED ?

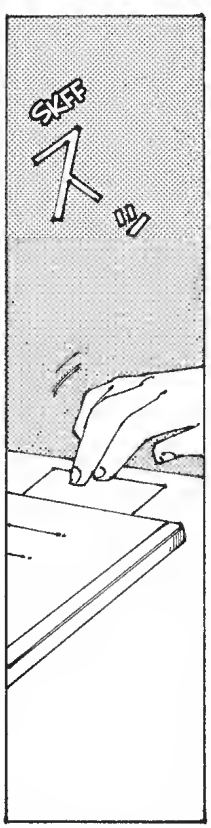
SUWANO INSISTED THAT SHE DIDN'T WANT ANYONE EXCEPT YOU FOR HER PARTNER.

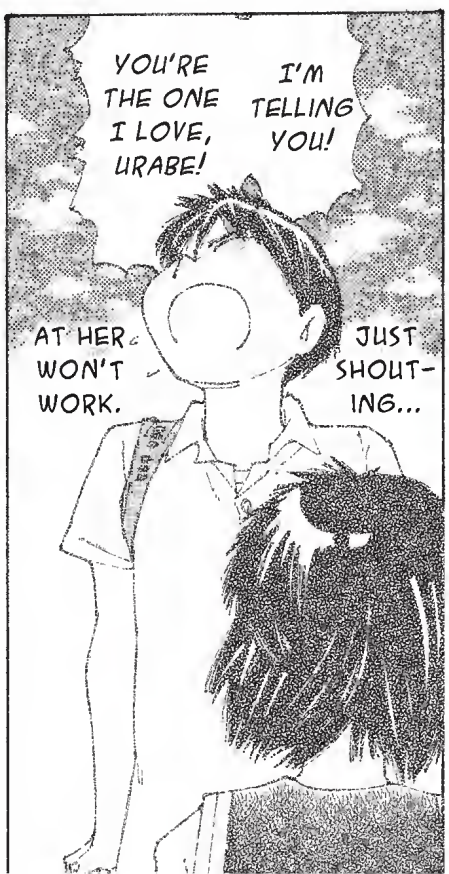
WHEN THE SUBJECT OF REPLACING YOU CAME UP,
SUWANO PIPED UP AND SAID,
"IF YOU DO THAT, THEN I QUIT."
AND OF COURSE, WE DON'T WANT TO LOSE THE TWO TOP SWIMMERS IN OUR CLASS,
SO WE DROPPED THE SUBJECT!
BUT,
I'M NOT IN THE TOP ANY-MORE ...
PAT
C'MON!
STOP TELLING YOURSELF THAT!
THE INTRA-MURALS ARE JUST LIKE A FESTIVAL.
WHAT REALLY MATTERS
ISN'T WINNING, BUT HAVING A BLAST WITH EVERYONE!
A BLAST!
PLUS,
YOU'RE JUST IN A TEMPORARY SLUMP.
YOU COULD EASILY BE BACK UP TO SPEED BY THE TIME OF THE MEET!
ANY-WAY,
JUST RELAX AND DO IT!
RELAX!


KREAK
THE INTRAMURALS ARE IN TWO DAYS...
I HAVE TO CLEAR UP

HOW DO I DO THAT ...?
BUT ...

I HAVE TO BREAK HER OUT OF THAT SLUMP...
URABE'S MISUNDERSTANDING BY THEN SOMEHOW...


SKFF


YOU'RE THE ONE I LOVE, URABE!
I'M TELLING YOU!
AT HER WON'T WORK.
JUST SHOUTING...

THERE'S ONLY URABE...
BUT FOR ME,
THAT SUWANO IS AN ATTRACTIVE GIRL...
I WON'T DENY
AH...
グラ
WOBBLE
THEN I WOULD TOTALLY BE ALL...
SMOOOOCH
ちゅううう
IF ONLY
THIS PHOTO
WAS A PHOTO OF
URABE ...
ア
PLE
TOP

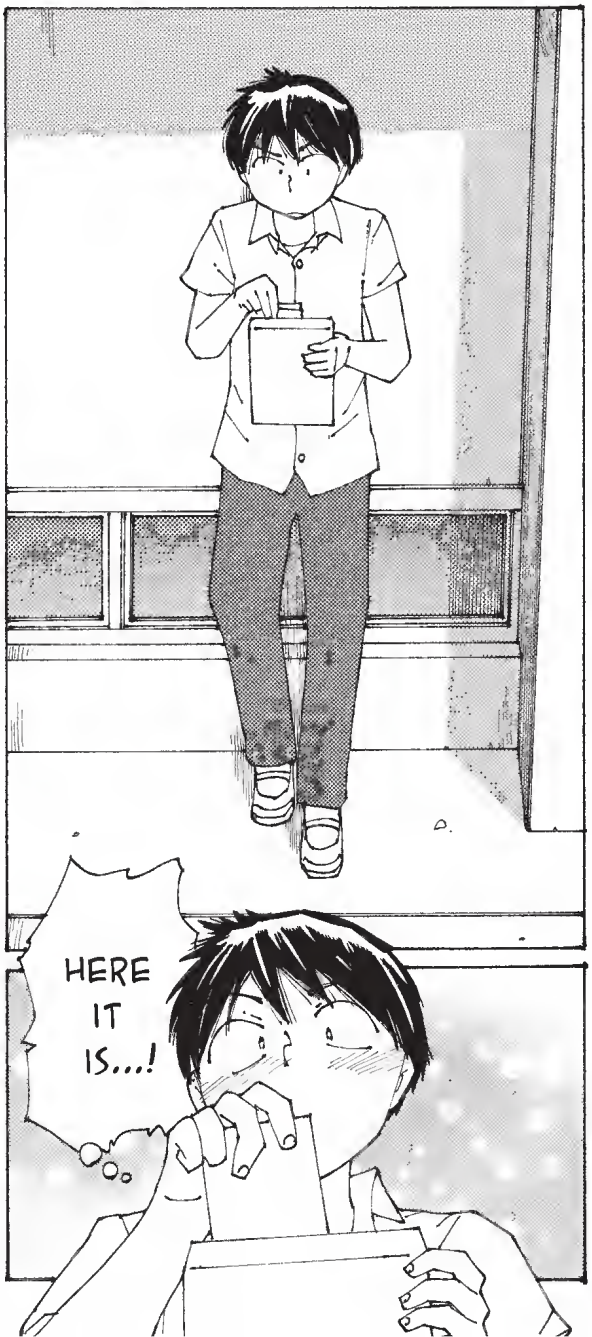
THAT HURT...
OWW...
KA
GAH!
THUD
KISSING HER PICTURE...
THAT JUST...
MIGHT WORK!!
UENO!
I HAVE A HUGE FAVOR TO ASK!
PLEASE!
A HUGE FAVOR?
WHAT?
DREAM TEA

A SWIMSUIT PHOTO OF EACH GIRL IN THE CLASS FROM NAKAJIMA, RIGHT?
YOU BOUGHT
YOU HAVE TO GIVE ME THOSE PHOTOS!
WELL,
ALL EXCEPT OKA'S, OF COURSE!
YOU ONLY WANTED TO GET YOUR HANDS ON
OKA'S PHOTO ANYWAY, RIGHT?
THE OTHER 19 ARE WORTH 5700 YEN!
I'LL PAY YOU!
...FINE WITH ME,
BUT WHY DO YOU WANT THEM ALL?
TEA
DIDN'T NAKAJIMA GIVE YOU THE PICTURE OF THE GIRL YOU LIKE?
NO!
THAT'S MY POINT!
NAKAJIMA JUST MISUNDERSTOOD THINGS!
THE GIRL I LIKE...
IS NOT SUWANO...
IT'S SOMEONE ELSE!
HUH?
REALLY?
YOU ALWAYS LOOK LIKE YOU'RE HAVING FUN ON DUTY WITH SUWANO,
SO I THOUGHT YOU LIKED HER.
NO,
I DON'T!

BUT FOR NOW,
I'LL TELL YOU SOMEDAY!
JUST GIVE ME THE PHOTOS AND DON'T ASK QUESTIONS!
SO,
JUST WHO IS
THE GIRL YOU LIKE?
TH—
THANKS!
SURE, WHATEVER...
THEY'RE IN MY BAG IN THE CLASS-ROOM.
I'LL GO GET THEM FOR YOU.
YOU SAVED MY SKIN!
HEY...
WAIT! WAIT!
THE MONEY!
MONEY!
UENO!
I OWE YOU!
SEE YA!
THANK YOU,
HERE!
RIGHT...
AH HA HA HA...
OH...

THAT'S ALL I HAVE RIGHT NOW!
SORRY!
I'LL PAY YOU BACK IN INSTALL-MENTS!
THIS IS ONLY A TENTH OF IT ...
...
500
10
10
50
SWAP

SWIMSUIT PHOTO!
URABE'S ...


HERE IT IS...!

ON THE WAY HOME,
I'LL USE THIS PICTURE TO...
OKAY!
ちゅっ♡
KISS

HUH?
2-A
URABE'S NOT HERE...
WHERE'S URABE?
HM?
CLASS IS STARTING!
SLIDE
ガラッ

SHE WASN'T FEELING WELL,
SO SHE LEFT EARLY.
WHAT? SHE LEFT EARLY?
SHE REALLY... WASN'T FEELING WELL?
KAZAMIDAI CITY POOL
SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH

MY BODY...
IT'S NO USE...
STILL FEELS HEAVY...
AND TOMORROW IS THE MEET...
HAA
SPLAASH
HAA
HAA
SPLASH
ONE MORE TRY...!
ZPLUSH
EVERYONE, GOOD LUCK IN ALL YOUR EVENTS!
SO CLASSES ARE OFF!
OKAY, THE INTRA-MURAL MATCHES ARE TODAY!

MEET ME BEHIND THE GYM RIGHT AFTER THIS.
I'M CALLING THE ROLL!
ISHI-ZAKA.
YO.
ANDOU.
HERE.
UENO.
HERE.
URABE.
HERE.
OKA.
HERE.
AHEM

WHAT IS IT,
TSUBAKI?
WHUMP

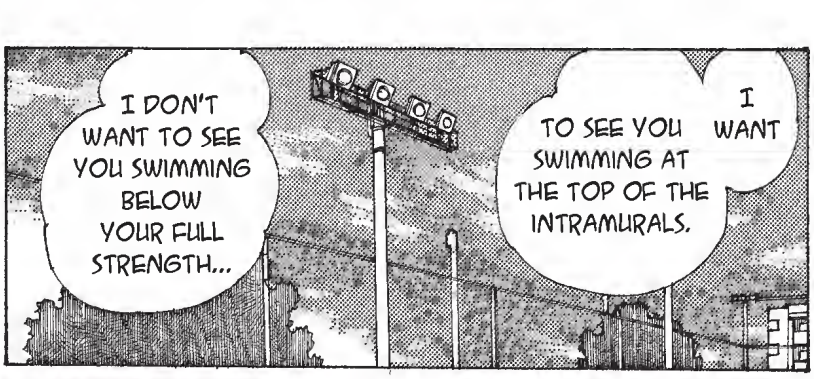
THE INTRAMURALS ARE TODAY.
BUT FIRST,
I WANTED TO CLEAR UP YOUR MISUNDER-STANDING.
SO
CLOSE YOUR EYES
UNTIL I SAY YOU CAN OPEN THEM!
OKAY, OPEN THEM.
NOW,
WILL YOU PUT YOUR FINGER IN MY MOUTH
AND TASTE MY DROOL?
LIKE THIS?
ARE THEY CLOSED?
I CAN'T TELL BECAUSE OF YOUR BANGS...
THEY'RE CLOSED.

SHLP
SFF
...
WELL?
SHLP
OKAY,
CLOSE YOUR EYES
ONE MORE TIME.
MY HEART
IS BEATING A LITTLE FASTER...

OKAY, OPEN THEM.
NOW, WILL YOU TASTE MY DROOL ONE MORE TIME?
SHLP
FWOOSH
BLUUUUUSH
かぁぁぁぁ♡
SHLP

SLIP
SLIP
I FEEL...
BADUM
WELL?
HOT ALL OVER...
BADUM
AND
MY HEART
IS RACING...
BADUM
BADUM
BADUM
ACTUALLY,
WHILE YOUR EYES WERE CLOSED,
I KISSED EACH
OF THESE PHOTOS.

I KISSED YOURS!
THE SECOND TIME,
AND
I KISSED SUWANO'S PHOTO.
WHEN YOU CLOSED YOUR EYES THE FIRST TIME,


I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU SWIMMING BELOW YOUR FULL STRENGTH...
I WANT TO SEE YOU SWIMMING AT THE TOP OF THE INTRAMURALS.

THE WAY MY DROOL AFFECTED
TELLS YOU WHICH GIRL I LIKE MORE, RIGHT?
YOUR HEART RATE AFTER EACH PHOTO

NOD
GO SWIM YOUR HEART OUT!
BECAUSE OF ME!
SO!
IT'S CLEARED UP NOW, RIGHT?

GOOD GRIEF...
WHEW...
DASH
ZKIDD
HUH?
SKIP
TSUBAKI.
WH...
WHAT?

WHEN YOU KISSED MY PHOTO,
DID YOUR HEART RACE?
YEAH,
OF COURSE ...
I MEAN,
COULDN'T YOU TELL BY MY DROOL THE SECOND TIME?!
THEN,
WHILE I'M LOOKING,
WOULD YOU...
KISS MY PHOTO ONE MORE TIME?
HUH ...?
WHILE YOU'RE LOOKING ?
PLEASE...
W...
WELL,
OKAY...

SMOOCH...
IT FEELS WEIRD KISSING URABE'S PHOTO
RIGHT IN FRONT OF HER...
IS YOUR HEART RACING...?
MMM HMM...
TSUBAKI,
THUP
HUH?
I'LL MAKE IT RACE EVEN FASTER.
THEN,

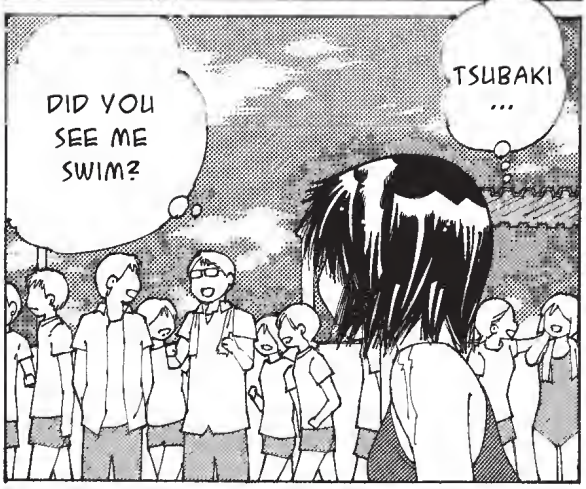
SMOOCH

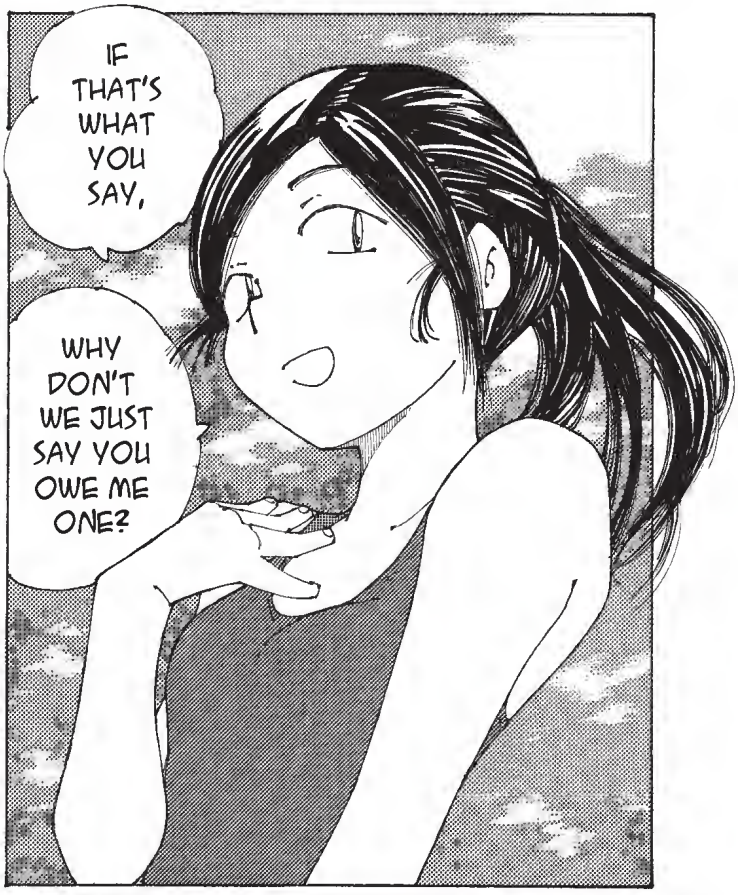
MAKE SURE YOU WATCH
WHEN I'M SWIMMING!
SFF
THUP
THUP
DASH
WOBBLE
THUD

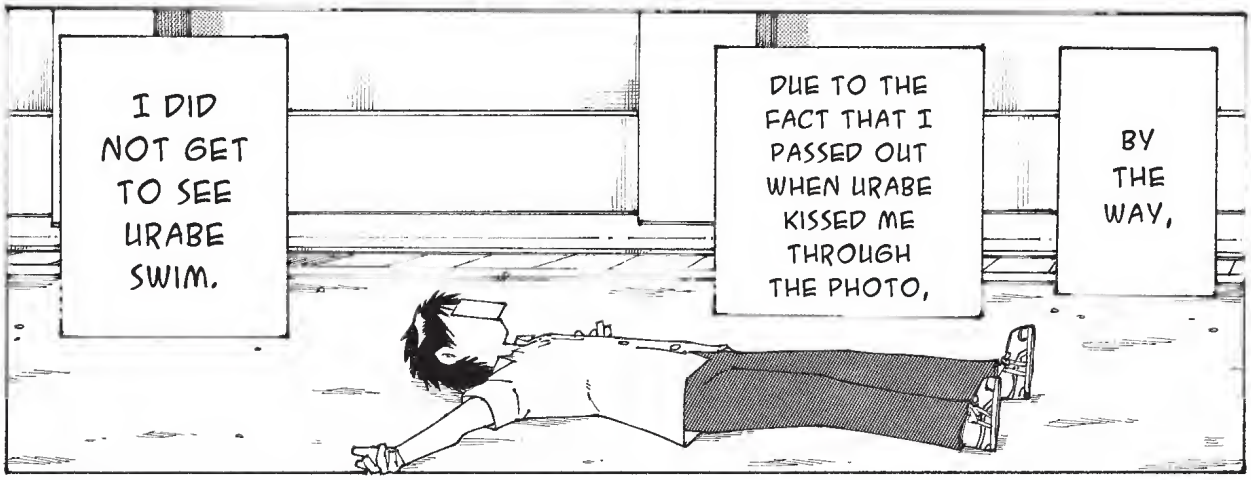
YOU CAN DO IT!
RAAAAH
GO!
0
2
3
5
6
SPLASH
SPLASH
ZPLAASH
TWEET
TAP

ワアアア
RAAAA
アア…
AHH
SHE DID IT!
THAT WAS GREAT, URABE!
YOU CAME FROM FOURTH PLACE TO WIN!
I KNEW I WAS RIGHT TO CHOOSE YOU AS MY PARTNER.
THANKS.
ギュ
GRIP

I...
NO...
THAT'S NOT IT!
I, UH...
IT'S LIKE YOUR SLUMP NEVER HAPPENED.
YOU'RE THE TYPE THAT PULLS OUT THE STOPS FOR THE REAL MATCH, HUH?
SIMPLE?
THE SIMPLE TYPE.
I'M JUST
AFTER SWIMMING TODAY,
YES.
I REALIZED
THAT I HAVE A VERY SIMPLE PERSONALITY,
AFTER ALL.
SO
HAVING YOU THANK ME LIKE THAT
MADE ME FEEL REALLY...







END OF CHAPTER 59

SUDDENLY, A FOUR-PANEL STRIP

MYSTERIOUS GIRLFRIEND X-CHAN

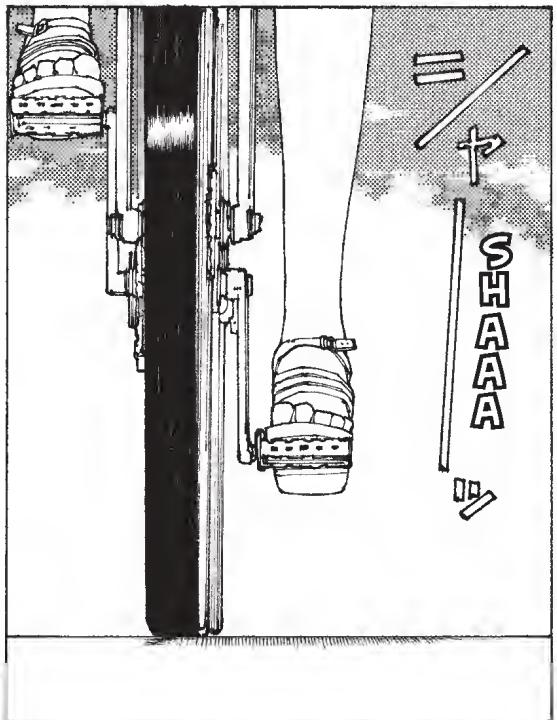
TO BE CONTINUED ...OR MAYBE NOT, WHO KNOWS?

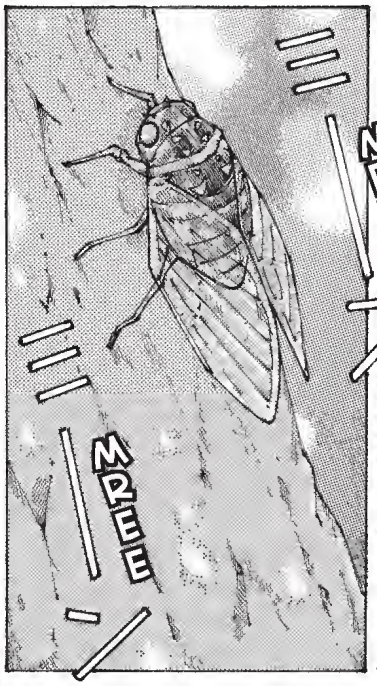
A MYSTERIOUS, MISCHIEVOUS HEROINE

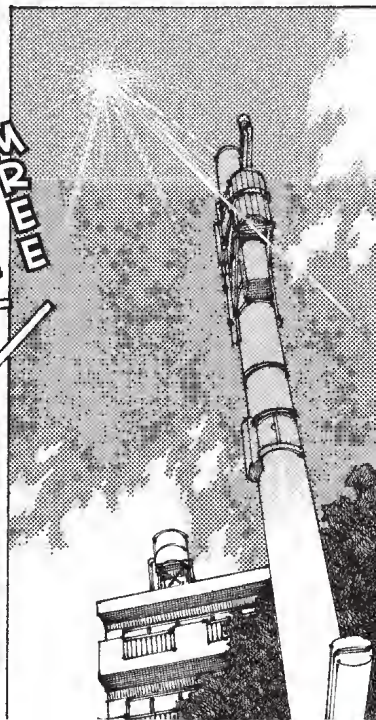
※ SHE NEVER MAKES THIS FACE IN THE MAIN "X" STORY.

CHAPTER 60: MYSTERIOUS AUGUST 31

STINGRA


ミャ SHAAA


ミー MREE
ミー MREE



TSUBAKI,
SORRY FOR THE WAIT.
SKREE
KACHAK
IT'S FINE.

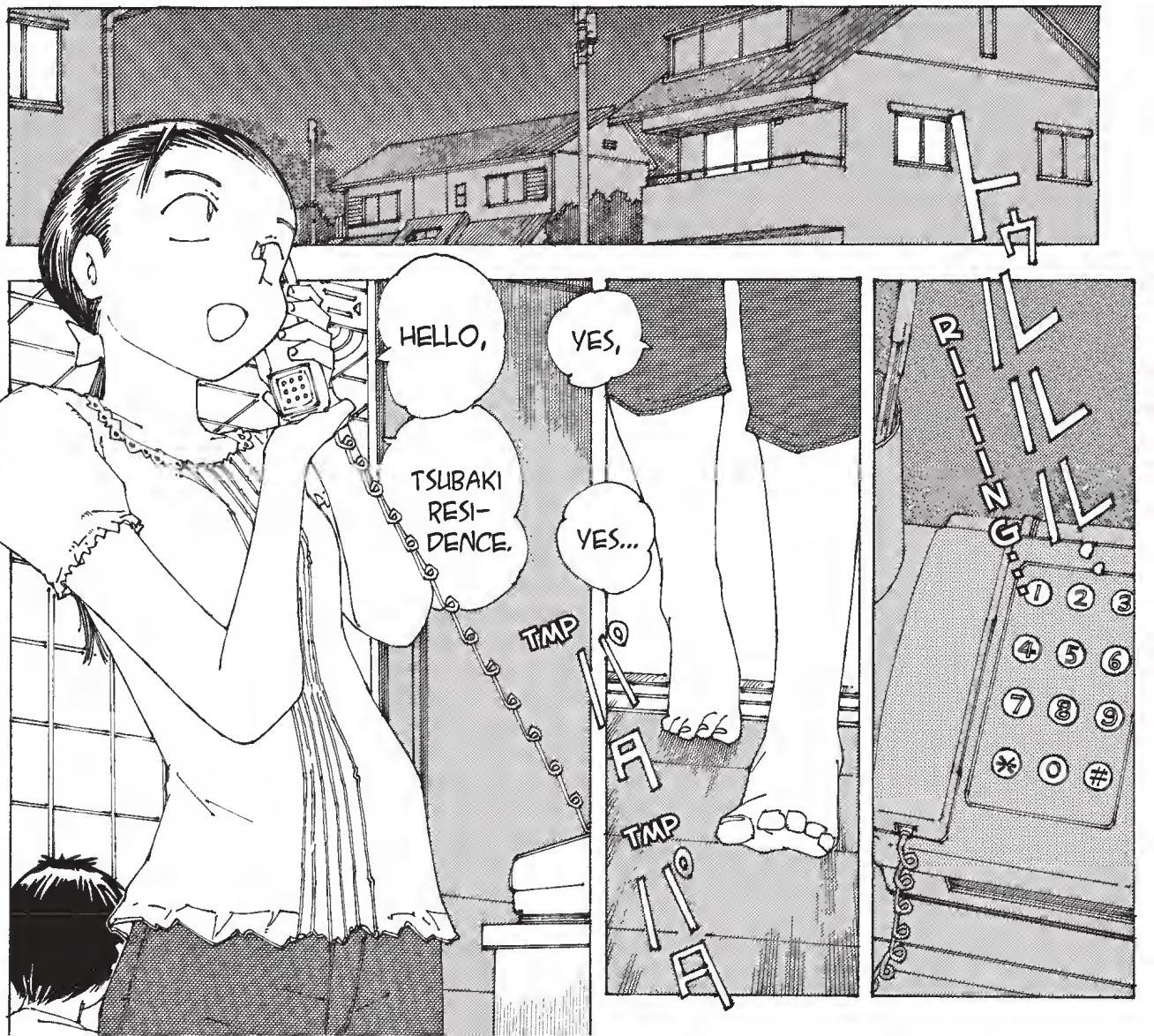
HERE.
SHLP
STINGRAY
AND SO, THIS IS HOW
WE'VE CONTINUED TO MEET UP THROUGHOUT SUMMER BREAK
AT THE USUAL PLACE TO KEEP UP OUR ROUTINE, BUT...

GACHAK
ガチャン
WELL,
SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW,
TSUBAKI.
STINGRAY
MARINE WARS
BUT YOU KEEP STARING AT MY FACE.
OH...
WELL, YOU KNOW...
STINGRAY
I DIDN'T SAY ANY-THING...
HUH?
WHAT IS IT, TSUBAKI?
...?

TODAY IS AUGUST 30,
SO I WAS JUST LOOKING AT YOU AND THINKING THAT
TOMORROW'S THE LAST DAY I'LL GET TO SEE YOU FOR OUR DAILY ROUTINE
IN YOUR REGULAR CLOTHES.
SINCE
SCHOOL STARTS THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW.
STINGRAY
GLANCE
WELL, TO BE MORE SPECIFIC...
ONCE SUMMER BREAK ENDS, FALL WILL COME, THEN WINTER,
AND I WON'T GET TO SEE URABE IN LIGHT CLOTHES LIKE THESE,
AND THAT MAKES ME WANT TO STARE AT HER FOREVER.

THAT'S RIGHT...
SO IT'S NOT JUST HER FACE...
BUT ALL OF HER.
TOMOR-ROW IS AUGUST 31,
ISN'T IT...?
STINGRAY
RIGHT HERE
MAKE SURE YOU COME
ON TIME TOMOR-ROW.
TSUBAKI.
HM?
WHAT?
STINGRAY
HMM...

OKAY,
TSUBAKI,
SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW.
IT'S OUR DAILY ROUTINE.
OF COURSE, I WILL.
STINGRAY


HELLO,
TSUBAKI RESI-DENCE.
YES,
YES...
TMP
TMP
RI-I-I-NG
1 2 3
4 5 6
7 8 9
* 0 #

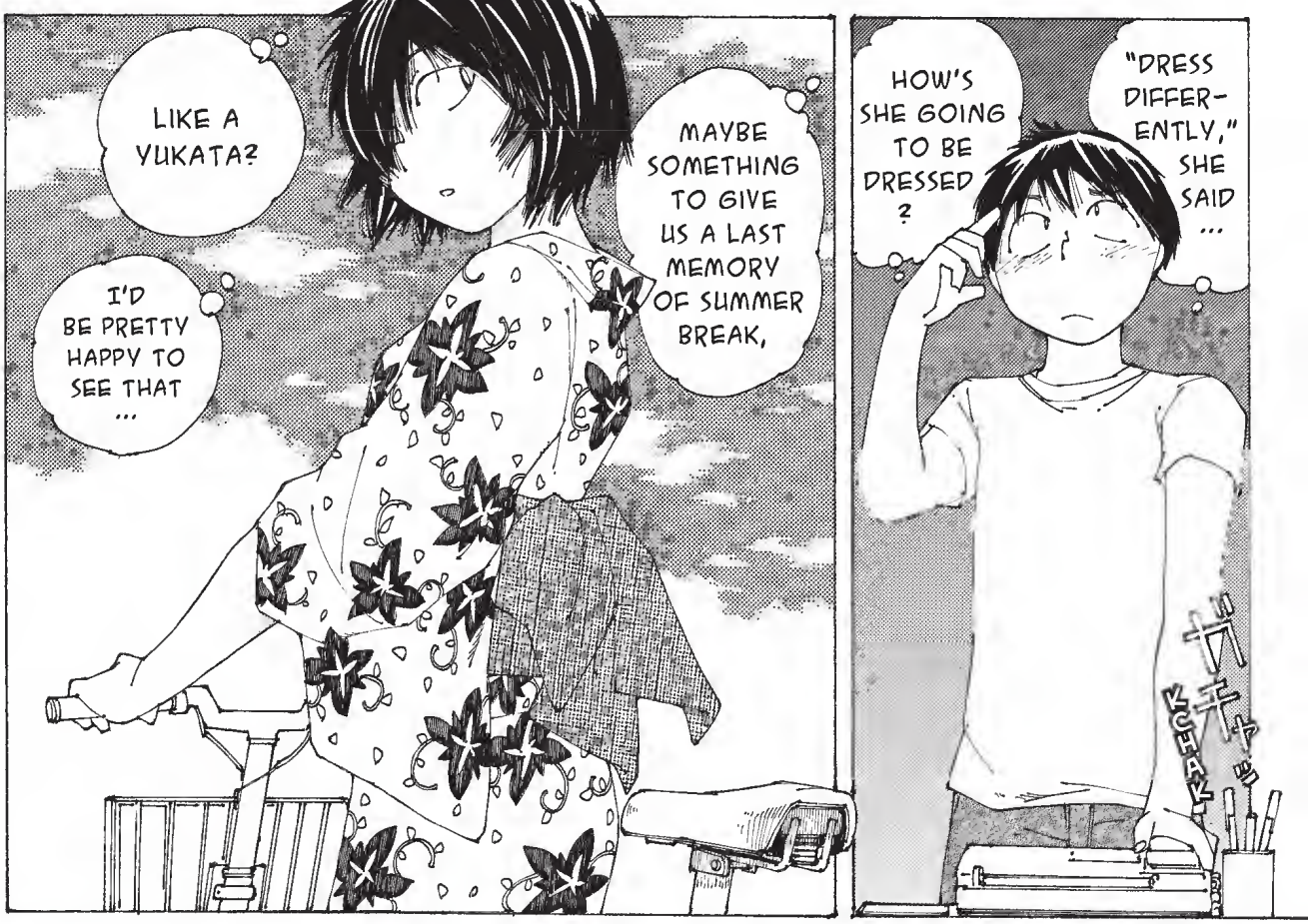
IT'S URABE, FROM YOUR CLASS!
AKIRA,
JOLT
JUST A SECOND ...
SIZZLE...!
AAH,
THE BOK CHOY IS IN!
YES,
YES.
CHINESE COOKING BATTLE!

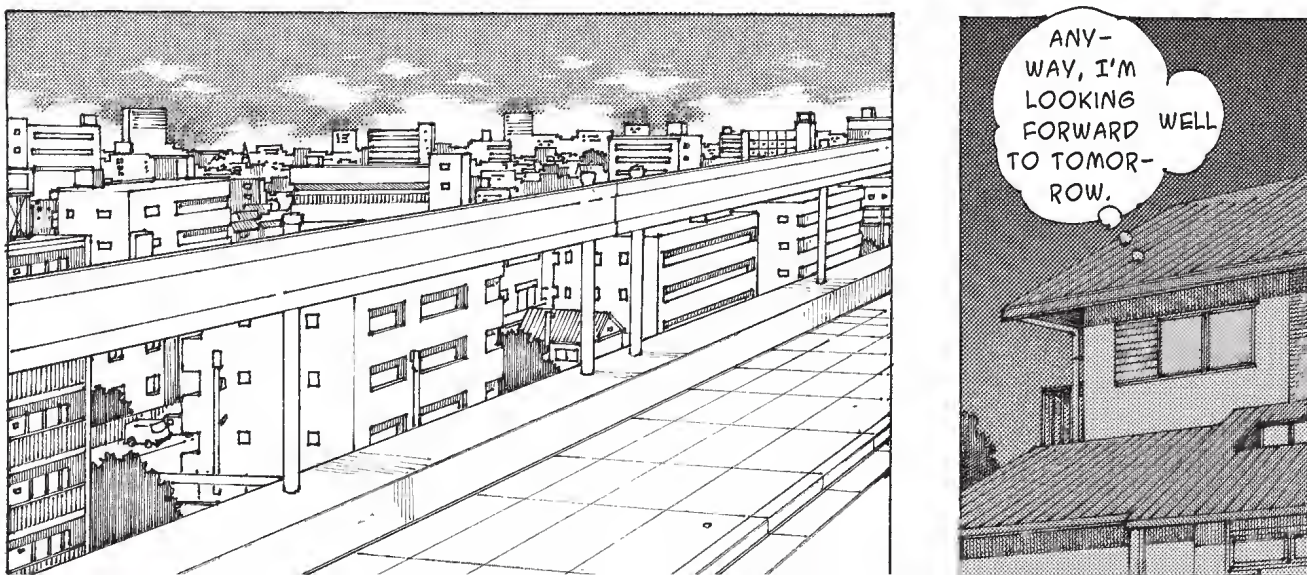
I WANT YOU TO WAIT WITH YOUR EYES CLOSED.
HEY, TSUBAKI ...
STARTING 3 MINUTES BEFORE OUR MEETING TIME TOMORROW,

IT'S ME!
URABE?
WHAT'S UP?

I'M GOING TO DRESS A LITTLE DIFFERENTLY TOMORROW.
I WANT TO SURPRISE YOU...
MY EYES?
WHY?

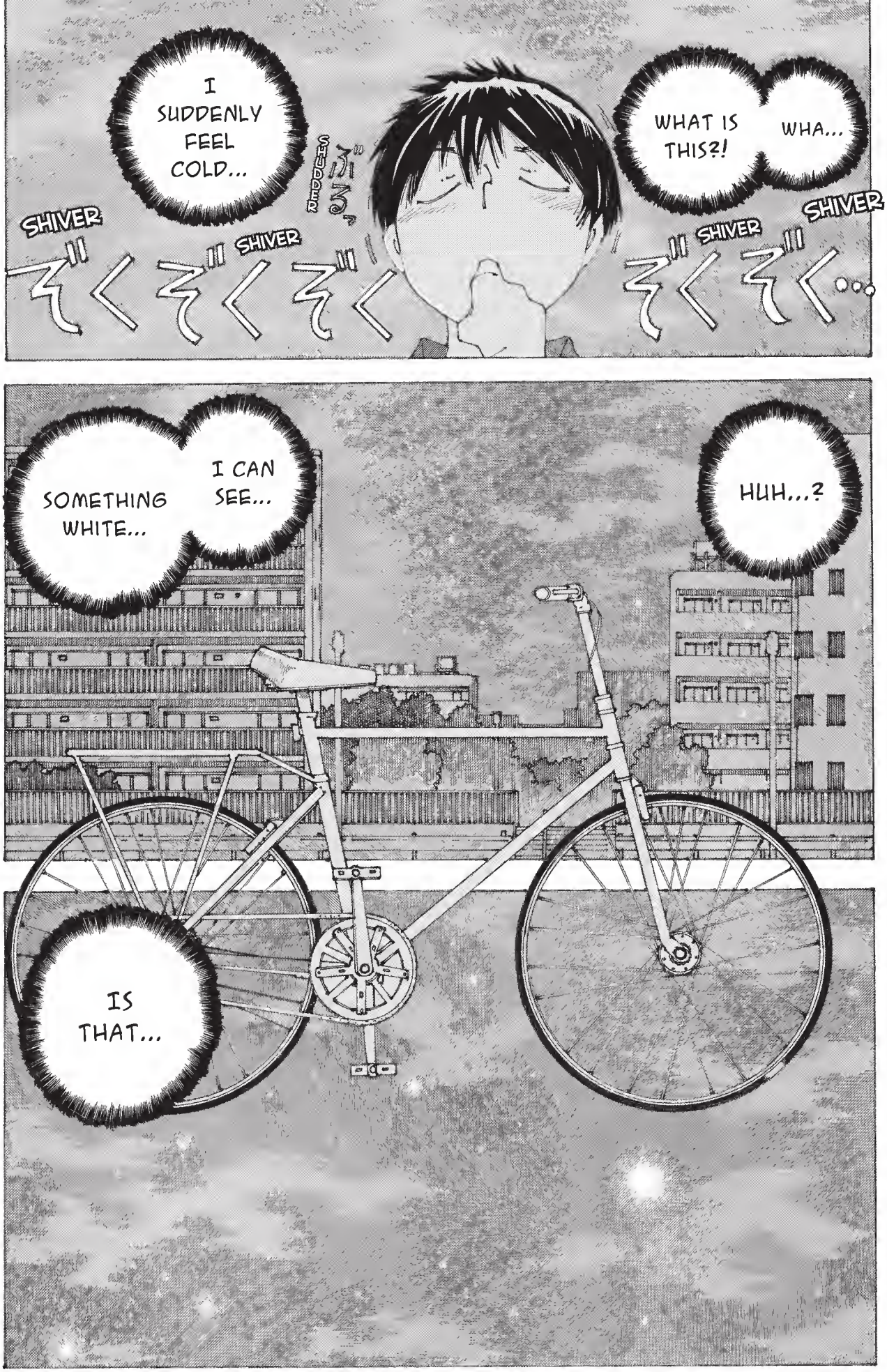
DRESS DIFFER-ENTLY?
O...
OKAY.
I GOT IT.
SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW...
IT'S A PROMISE.
KLIK

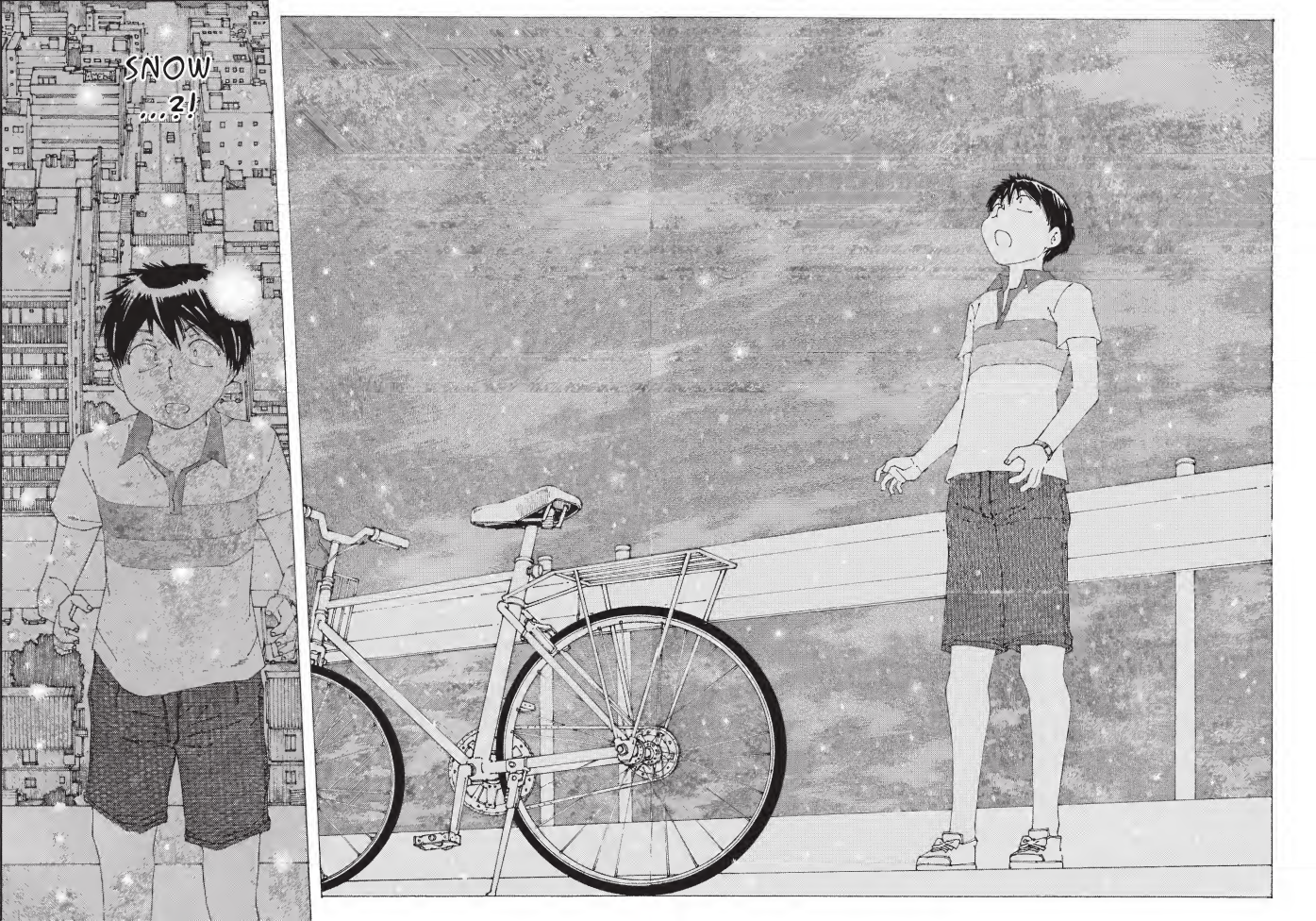

"DRESS DIFFER-ENTLY," SHE SAID ...
HOW'S SHE GOING TO BE DRESSED ?
KUSHA
MAYBE SOMETHING TO GIVE US A LAST MEMORY OF SUMMER BREAK,
LIKE A YUKATA?
I'D BE PRETTY HAPPY TO SEE THAT ...


ANY-WAY, I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO TOMOR-ROW.
WELL

ABOUT 3 MINUTES TO GO.
NOW THEN,
BETTER CLOSE MY EYES LIKE SHE SAID...
SHAAAA
SHE'S HERE!!
TWITCH
SWIIIIII

DON'T OPEN THEM.
KEEP YOUR EYES CLOSED, OKAY?
TSUBAKI.
I... I KNOW!
SHLP ちゅっ
HUH ...?!
ヒュ〜〜
ZWOOSH
HERE.
OPEN YOUR MOUTH.
ちゅっ SHLP


I SUDDENLY FEEL COLD...
SHIVER
SHIVER
SHIVER
SHIVER
SHIVER
SHIVER
WHAT IS THIS?!
WHA...
SOMETHING WHITE...
I CAN SEE...
HUH...?
IS THAT...


SNOW
...?!

WHOA !!
SNAP

...
HUH?
MREEEE
WH...
WHY
ARE YOU WEARING THAT?
MREEEE
A COAT,
A SCARF,
AND GLOVES ...

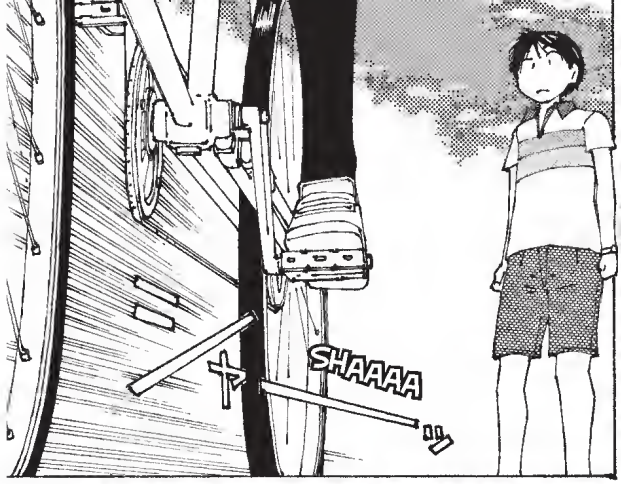
TSUBAKI,
WHEN YOU TASTED MY DROOL JUST NOW,
DID YOU SEE ANYTHING ?
HUH ?!
YES!
I SAW SNOW FALLING FROM THE SKY.
I THOUGHT SO...
SEE,
A WHILE AGO,
IN THE WINTER, WHEN YOU HAD A COLD...

SO IF IT WORKS THE OPPOSITE WAY,
THEN IF I GIVE YOU MY DROOL IN SUMMER WHILE WEARING WINTER CLOTHES,
I THOUGHT YOU'D PROBABLY SEE A WINTER SCENE.
YOU SAID YOU SAW A SUMMER SUN IN YOUR MIND ...
HUH? DID THAT HAP-PEN?
I WORE MY SWIMSUIT UNDER MY COAT, AND WHEN I GAVE YOU MY DROOL,

...
BUT, URABE,
DRESSED LIKE THAT...
IT SEEMS LIKE IT WORKED.
TO TRY IT OUT.
GLOVES
AND TIGHTS
SO I WORE
A SCARF,
A COAT,

SWEATING I'M
LIKE CRAZY IN THIS ...
DON'T PUSH YOUR-SELF!
I'M BOILING !!
AREN'T YOU HOT?
WHOOF
WHAT IF YOU PASS OUT
FROM HEAT STROKE ?

BUT...
SINCE IT'S THE LAST DAY OF SUMMER BREAK...
I WANTED TO SHOW YOU
SOME-THING A LITTLE INTER-ESTING.



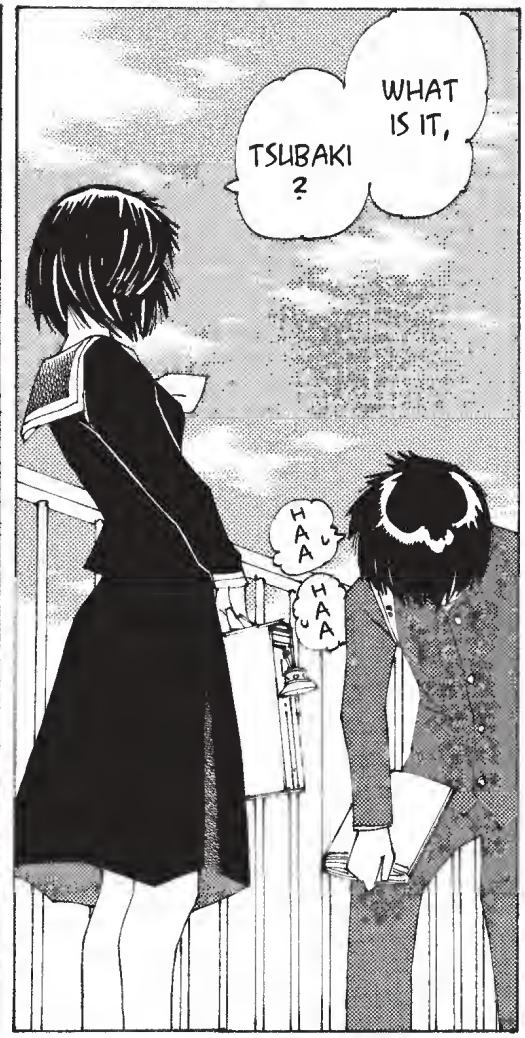
END OF CHAPTER 60

A SPECIAL SHORT TO CELEBRATE THE ANIME RELEASE!

MYSTERIOUS GIRLFRIEND X

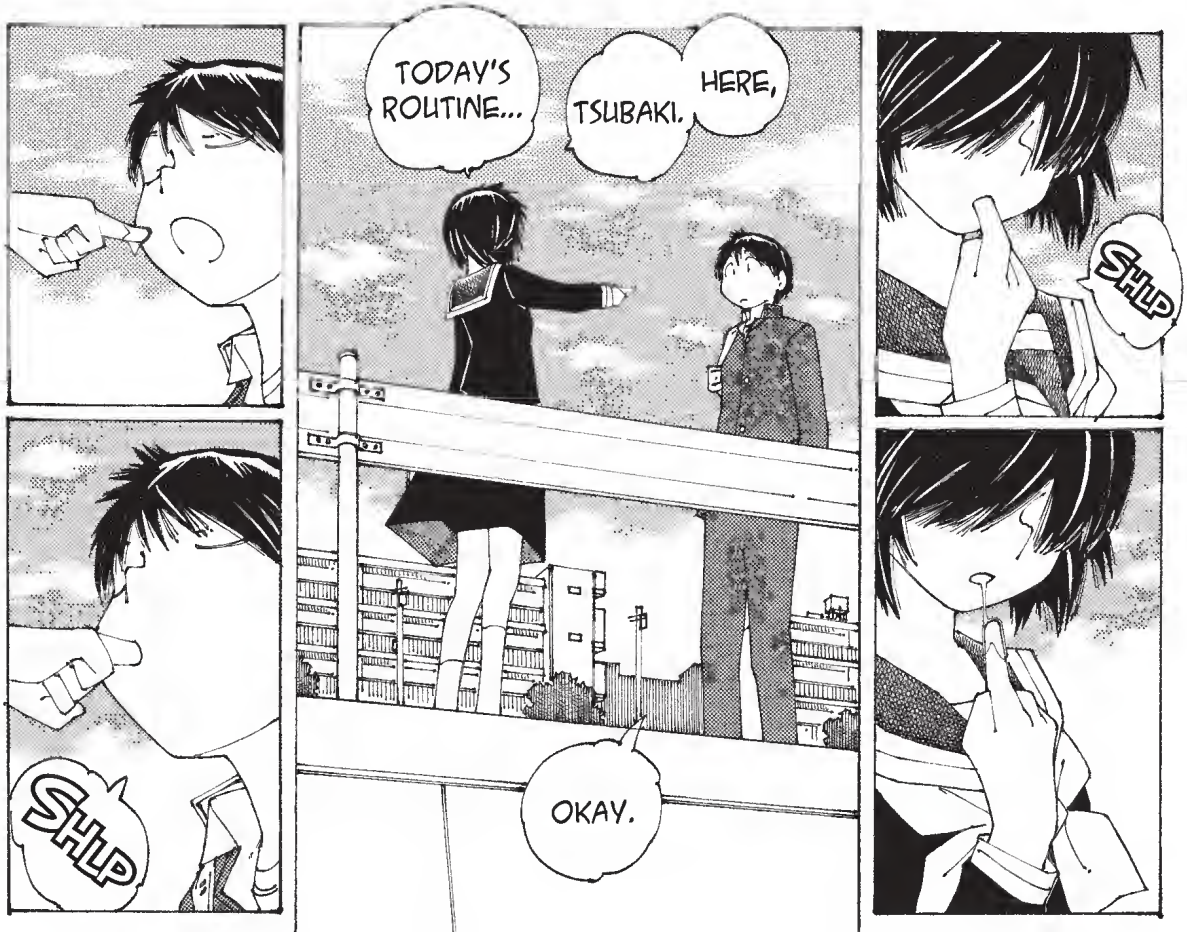
SPECIAL SHORT: MYSTERIOUS ANIME VERSION

Riichi Ueshiba



*THIS STORY IS A WORK OF FICTION. RESEMBLANCE TO ANY REAL PERSONS, ORGANIZATIONS, OR TITLES IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL.

Riichi Ueshiba



IN THE '70S AND '80S, IN MY HOMETOWN IN FUKUOKA, THE TV SHOWED RERUNS OF "TOM AND JERRY" ON REPEAT. RECENTLY, I'VE BORROWED RECORDINGS OF THE SHOW FROM A FELLOW FUKUOKA EX-PAT, THE EDITOR MR. N. THE COMPOSITION OF THE PROGRAM IS SO PERFECT THAT IT'S FAR MORE FUN TO WATCH IT THIS WAY THAN ON DVDS RELEASED IN THE MODERN AGE. I'VE BEEN WATCHING THEM ON HEAVY ROTATION.

SEE YA.
YEP.
TSUBAKI, SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW.
HAP-PENED TO YOU ?!!
WHAT
WAH!
WEL-COME BACK, AKIRA ...
I'M HOME !
YOUKO ?
WHY,
HUH?
AKIRA,
YOU...

*Gakky is the nickname of Yui Aragaki, a young actress, model, and singer.

MYSTERIOUS GIRLFRIEND X END OF SPECIAL SHORT

VOLUMES 1-4 ARE ON SALE! LET'S TAKE THIS CHANCE TO REVIEW!!

LOOK FORWARD TO VOLUME 5!!

Mysterious Girlfriend X 4

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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Translation: Rebecca Cottrill

Production: Risa Cho

Anthony Quintessenza